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HISTORY

OF

ENNISCORTHY:

THE CATHEDRAL ; ST. JOHN'S PRIORY ; FRANCISCAN FRIARY ;
ST. SENAN'S CHURCH ; THE CASTLE ;
RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS ;
BORMOUNT MANOR ; BROWNSWOOD CASTLE ; FERNS CASTLE ;
EDERMINE ; MACMINE ; WILTON ; CASTLEBORO ;
WITH THE
EPISCOPAL SUCCESSION IN THE DIOCESE OF FERNS ;
ANTIQUITIES, HOLY WELLS, &c.

BY

WILLIAM H. GRATAN FLOOD,

Lond. Univ., M.R.S.A., I.S.M., &c.

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

ENNISCORTHY :

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR.

1898.

169
42

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PREFACE.



HIS little handbook scarcely requires a preface. As nothing of the kind has hitherto been published, it may truly be described as “a long-felt want supplied.” In every instance I have consulted the most reliable authorities, viz., the *Annals of the Four Masters*; Colgan’s *Acta Sanctorum*; *Lives of the Irish Saints*—Harris, Ware; Archdall’s *Monasticon Hibernicon*; MacGeoghegan’s, Leland’s, and Mitchel’s *History of Ireland*; Renehan’s *Collections of Irish Church History*; State Papers; Fiants of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary I., and Elizabeth; Gilberts’ Confederation documents; Prendergast’s *Cromwellian Settlement*; Murphy’s *Cromwell in Ireland*; Brady’s *Episcopal Succession*; Fraser’s *Statistical Survey of County Wexford*; Griffiths’ *Chronicles of County Wexford*; Froude’s works; Sweetman’s *Calendar of State Documents*; Lacy’s *Home Sketches*; Lecky’s works; all the published books on the ’98 Insurrection; Meehan’s *Franciscan Monasteries*; Gilberts’ *Viceroy’s of Ireland*; Castlereagh’s *Memoirs*; Barrington’s *Personal Sketches*; Ogle’s *Memoirs*; various archæological works, magazines, files of old newspapers, documents in the Public Record Office, &c.

In order to compress the work as much as possible, and to publish it at a popular price, I have omitted most of the references, but the reader can rest assured that the facts can all be corroborated. Should it meet with the approval of the public, it is the intention of the writer to publish a history of the diocese of Ferns, with maps, charters, illustrations, &c. Enniscorthy has been up to the present without a chronicler, and yet, as will be seen from the ensuing pages, it was the theatre of many absorbing events of national importance.

To the average tourist, Vinegar Hill is the only landmark popularly assumed to be worth associating with the old town by the Slaney, but, to the student of history, one can behold, in panoramic array, the shades of mighty personages who once trod this lovely country. I need only mention numerous pre-Patrician and pre-Norman saints, kings, and warriors—also Dermot MacMurrough, Strongbow, de Prendergast, de Rochford, Art MacMurrough, Bishop Barrett, Donal *Fuscus* Kavanagh, Sir Henry Wallop, Rory O'More, Lord Baltimore, Oliver Cromwell, Bishop French, William Penn, John Wesley, Sir John Moore, Bishop Keating, George Ogle, Thomas Furlong, Thomas Moore, Bishop Doyle, O'Connell, Duffy, Father Mathew, Bishop Ryan, Bishop Furlong, Parnell, Cardinal Persico, the Duke of York, the Duke of Clarence, Count de Turin, &c.

I must express my indebtedness to many kind friends who assisted me in transcribing and collating various documents, but particularly to the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Ferns, Canon Whitty, Sir Thomas H. Grattan Esmonde, M.P., Rev. J. F. M. French, Philip Hore, John Cullin, J.P., and George C. Roberts, J.P. It is as well to state that the principal object of writing this work was to provide a convenient historical guide book. There is no pretence to a literary style, and the author merely sets forth the facts chronologically, with a due regard to impartiality. He now leaves the work, with all its imperfections, in the hands of an indulgent public, compiled as it was in the spare time snatched from professional duties, and trusts that it will throw some light on the history of this portion of the "model county."

WILLIAM H. GRATTAN FLOOD.

ENNISCORTHY,

September, 1898.

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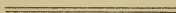
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ERRATA.

Page 3, lines 6 and 14, for "Veoce" read *Veocc*.

„ 3, line 24, for "nebo" read *mbo*.

„ 17, line 3, for "by" read *of*.

„ 19, line 32, for "Clym" read *Dowling*.

„ 32, *Note*—line 5, for "1540" read *1539*.

„ 87, line 16, after "two" read *years*.

„ 89, line 28, for "James" read *James's*.

„ 95, line 15, after "Limerick" read *being*.

„ 96, line 4, for "Collin" read *Collier*.

„ 126, line 38, for "J.P." read *J.B.*

„ 137, line 6, for "shere" read *sheer*.

„ 187, line 36, for "1898" read *1798*.

HISTORY OF ENNISCORTHY.

ANCIENT ENNISCORTHY.



THE town of Enniscorthy is charmingly situated on the banks of the river Slaney, overshadowed by the gorse-covered eminence yecept Vinegar Hill. Our ancient annalists make no mention of Enniscorthy prior to the fifth century, and no correct solution has yet been offered as to the derivation of the names *Enniscorthy* and *Vinegar Hill*. From Camden we learn that *Inis Cort* is so called from the *Corthae*, "a people of the Coriandi," and he quotes from Necham :—

"Ditat Eniscortum flumen quod Slana vocatur,
Illam cernit Weisford se sociare sibi."

which distich has been quaintly translated by Dr. Philemon Holland :—

"The river which is called Slaney enricheth Eniscort,
And the said river Weisford sees gladly with him to sort."

Wexford town was originally known as *Cael Rinn*, i.e., Narrow Point, but, in the year 121, on the burial of Garman, who was drowned in *Port Cael Rinn* by Cahir Mor, King of Ireland, LOCH GARMAN burst forth. Hence, from that period, the present municipality of Wexford was known as Loch Garman or Carman. The river Slaney is named from SLANE, son of Dela, one of the Firbolg princes.

As regards the place name Enniscorthy, Joyce, in his two volumes on "Irish Names of Places," does not even allude to it. Kennedy, in his interesting novel, "Banks of the Boro," suggests three or four widely differing explanations. The late distinguished Jesuit, Father Denis Murphy, in a letter of April, 1896, inclined to the derivation as

given by the present writer, namely, INIS COTHRAIGE—the Island of the Cothraige. Like myself, he scouted the idea of the Corthae, or the Coriandi, or the legendary Druidic priests who are said to have lived on the island, or “the island of the shallow ford.” St. Fiacc of Sletty tells us that, in the time of St. Patrick, the HY COTHRAIGE (*Cetaraige*), or people of the fourth tribal division, dwelt in this district. The Hy Cothraige also peopled Donoughmore, near Gorey, but their chief seat was at Ahaddy, or Aghade, Co. Carlow, and they were Christianized by the pre-Patrician St. Isserinus, who died July 14th, 470. The people of *Hy Trene*, or those of the third division, are alluded to in several entries of the ninth century; and *Hy Felimy* was the old name for the present barony of Ballaghkeen.

In pagan times, the Ringwood, Ballybrennan, Killoughram, and Rosdroit (the Druid's Wood) were the principal seats of Druidic worship. The great Apostle of Ireland made several foundations in County Wexford, as did also St. Bridget (Kilbride). St. Cuan the Leper, or Cuan Oge, is the patron of Ballybrennan, near Bree, Enniscorthy, of Kilcoan, and of Kilturk, whose feast is April 4th. The popularity of St. Kieran may be evidenced in the place names St. Kearns, Cooraun, Screen, Kilkieran (*Cill-Charon-Glynn*).

The earliest mention of the district known as the Duffrey (*Dubh-thir* = black or turfy land) is in a legendary Irish fragment, wherein Eochy Airgtech, one of the royal brothers who reigned conjointly over Erin, A.D. 284—285, is said to have been slain at the Dubhthir in Hy Kinsellagh, but the event really occurred near Larne, Co. Antrim. We next meet with the foundation of Templeshannon (now incorporated with Enniscorthy), by St. Senan, who took refuge for two years (510—512) in this neighbourhood, and founded *Teampul Senain*, after which he went to Wales, but returned to Ireland in 520, and founded the see of Inis Cathay or Inniscattery, near Kilrush, Co. Clare, where he died March 8th, 546.

Ancient Enniscorthy was thickly wooded, as the place names Drumgoole (*Druinguala*) and Killagoley testify. The town itself was within the old ecclesiastical parish of

Templeshanbo ; and Templeshannon was on the island of the Cothraige. By the aid of local topography we can conjure up the labours of St. Abban (Killowen), St. Aidan (variously called Mo-Aedoc, Mo-Aedhog, Mogue, and Moses, *e.g.*, Ballyedan, Coolatin, Islandmogue, Cromogue, Crefogue, Boolavogue), St. Cairbre (Kilcarbery), St. Veece (Ballyvake), St. Munnu (Taghmon), St. Columbkille (Ardcolm), St. Gobban (Gobbinstown), St. Dubhan (Abbeydown), St. Kieran (Kilkieran), St. Killen (Tykillen), St. Inick (Killick), St. Mochoellog (Killmollock), St. Mochuda (Coolnecuddy), St. Brendan (Knockbrandon), St. Moling (Monamoling), &c. The old church of Ballyvake has long since disappeared, but there is a small remnant yet of Kilcarbery, founded by St. Cairbre, the brother of St. Veece. Clonmore, founded by St. Aidan, is now a venerable ruin, whilst Cooraun Well (St. Cuaran's ¹) and Ballybrennan (St. Cuana's) both within easy distance of Enniscorthy, are still visited by pious pilgrims.

Templeshanbo was founded by St. Aidan, who selected St. Colman O'Fiachra as first Abbot (d. October 27th, 595). Joyce tells us that the name signifies "the church of the tents of Sine, or Sheen, a female personage," but another authority informs us that the old name was *Teampul Sean na nebo Sine*—the temple of the sacred cow of the Sine. Anyhow, this church of the Sine belonged to a clan of the Degaith MacSine, who lived in North Wexford. In the "Irish Nennius" we read that Templeshanbo was famous for its venerated ducks (just as other shrines, *e.g.*, St. Mogue's Well, at Ferns, were celebrated for sacred trout), and "even if by accident, or otherwise, any person wished to kill those sacred birds for the purpose of feasting thereon, though the timber of all the woods were burned under the pot, the water would not be heated until they were taken out of it and put into the same pond from which they were taken."

In thanksgiving for the victory of Dunbolg in 598, Bran Dubh, King of Leinster, convened a synod in 599, with the result that St. Aidan was appointed Archbishop of Leinster, with Ferns as his episcopal city. Bran Dubh founded twenty churches in County Wexford, and was slain at Ferns, in 605, by Saran Saebhderg (of the crooked or evil

¹ The feast or "pattern" day of St. Cuaran or MoChuaroc is celebrated on February 9th.

eye), Erenach, *i.e.*, lay Abbot, of Templeshanbo, who was one of his own relatives. St. Aidan is said to have erected thirty churches in the territory of Hy Kinsellagh¹—coincident with the present diocese of Ferns—and he died at Ferns, on January 31st, 632.

Passing over a century and a half, during which not more than a few entries of local importance occur, we come to the landing of the Norsemen in 795, and their defeat in 826 by Cairbre MacCathal, Lord of Hy Kinsellagh, aided by the men of Taghmon. In 834 the Danes plundered Ferns and the district around Enniscorthy; and similar depredations were committed by them in the years 836, 838, 839, and 842. From the year 860 the Danes were practically masters of Hy Kinsellagh, and they changed the name Loch Garman to *Weisfiord*, or Wexford. Norse names still linger in County Wexford, like Carnsore, Greenore, the Raven, the Hook, the Scar, the Saltees, &c.

Under date of 881 the *Four Masters* have the following entry: "Ailill, son of Finncheallach, chief of *Hy Trene*, in the territory of Hy Kinsellagh, died." This, of course, refers to the tribe of the *third* division—Enniscorthy was the fourth division—of County Wexford. From the same source we learn that, in 905, Ciarodhar, son of Crunmhael, Lord of Hy Felimy, *i.e.*, the present barony of Ballaghkeen, was slain.

More plunderings of the Danes are chronicled for the years 917, 920, 928, 930, and 937; and, in 980, Donald *Claen*, King of Leinster, was ransomed from the Norsemen. So powerful had these Scandinavian rovers become that, about this date, or early in the eleventh century, they erected a mint at Clonmines, where there was an abundance of silver. They also became Christianized, and, after the

¹ The name Kinsellagh is a corruption of *Ceann Salach*, which means "dishonoured head." About the year 350 we meet with the celebrated Enna Kinsellagh, who gave his name to the Hy Kinsellagh. In ancient Erin there was a distinct order of musicians called the Oirsidigh. At the battle of Cruachan, a famous bard, named Cetmathach, fled for protection to Enna, King of Leinster, whom, unfortunately, he had lampooned in a poem. "The monarch seized the opportunity, and wickedly put the bard to death, for which crime he was ever after known as Enna *Ceann Salach*, or Kinsellagh."

defeat at Clontarf in 1014, settled down in amicable relations with the Irish. In 1051 the two Saxon princes, Harold and Leofwin, sons of Earl Godwin of Kent, fled to Ireland, and remained during the winter at Ferns Castle, as the guests of Dermot, son of Maelnambo, King of Leinster. This Dermot became supreme monarch (*Ard Righ*) of Ireland in 1064, and, at length, was slain in February, 1072, at Navan.¹

Malachy O'Murphy, Lord of Hy Kinsellagh, was killed in 1132; and, in 1135, is chronicled the demise of Bishop O'Cathan of Ferns, who is described as "Archbishop of Hy Kinsellagh." In 1141, the infamous Dermot MacMurrough, "killed or blinded over a score of the nobility of Leinster;" but, between the years 1146 and 1152, he founded several religious houses. In 1153, he carried off the mature Princess Dervorgilla from Breffni, and, in 1154, he burned the city and monastic establishments of Ferns. Early in 1161, in expiation for his many crimes, King Dermot refounded the venerable monastery of Ferns for regular Canons of St. Augustine; and, in the same year, his son, Donal *Kavanagh* (so called from having been fostered at *Cill Coemhgen*, now Kilcavan, near Gorey), in command of the troops of Hy Kinsellagh, gained a victory over the Danes of Wexford.

Early in 1166, King Dermot again burned the royal city of Ferns, "from fear that the Connaught men would burn his castle and his house." Almost immediately afterwards, in fulfilment of a vow made during a severe illness, the King of Leinster founded the Priory of All Hallows, now College Green, Dublin. In August of the same year, Enna Kinsellagh, the only legitimate son of King Dermot, was blinded by MacGillapatrik, Prince of Ossory.

¹ After this date anarchy prevailed for a time, but, in 1079, Conor O'Conor Faly celebrated the great fair of Carman, to prove his claim to the sovereignty of Leinster. From the "Book of Leinster" we get a most minute account of the Fair of Carman, or Wexford, in the eleventh century, which the Leinstermen celebrated "by tribes and by households" in honour of old Garman, the Pagan warrior, who was drowned there. From the fifth century the national games at these fairs were Christianized, and were held every three years on August 1st, at the "music-sweet haven," lasting an entire week.

And now we come to an entry fraught with national interest, namely, the fact that on August 1st, 1166, Dermot MacMurrough "was banished over the sea by the men of Erin," and sailed for Bristol. This fact is vouched for by the "Book of Leinster," a unique and deeply interesting chronicle. It is almost unnecessary to remark that the abduction of Dervorgilla, which took place in 1153, was not the cause of Dermot's enforced exile, and his determination to seek the aid of Henry II., King of England; nor is it pertinent to take cognizance of the spurious Bull of Pope Adrian, evolved from the fertile brain of Giraldus Cambrensis. The Leinster monarch, furnished with "letters patent to all his liege subjects in England" from King Henry, returned from France to Bristol in the summer of 1167.

King Dermot, accompanied by his secretary, Maurice Regan, of Ballyregan, near Ferns, and a pioneer force of Galls, or foreigners, arrived at Glascarrig, Co. Wexford, about the middle of September, 1168, and remained shut up in the monastery of Ferns during the Christmas and Spring. In February, 1169, King Roderic O'Connor and Tiernan O'Rourke marched to Ferns, whereupon Dermot fled. After a few skirmishes, the King of Leinster made complete submission to the Irish monarch, in March, only asking for permission to hold ten cantreds of land in Ferns, and offering seven hostages to Roderic, as also 100 ounces of gold to O'Rourke. The two kings then departed, but, almost immediately, Dermot despatched Maurice Regan to Wales, to hasten the coming of the mercenary Welsh knights.

Here it is as well to inform the reader that between the years 1113 and 1138, a large body of Flemings had settled in Haverfordwest, in Pembrokeshire, and formed a separate colony under the protection of Henry I. and Stephen. Their centre lay in the south of Pembrokeshire and the south west of Glamorganshire, and the Flemish families kept aloof from their Welsh neighbours; "and that they engaged in considerable numbers," as Dr. Russell wrote in 1857, "in the invading expedition under Strongbow, is inferred from the number of seemingly Flemish names, such as Connick, Colfer, Godkin, Bolger, Fleming, Furlong,

Waddick, Ram, Scurlock, Rossiter, Prendergast, Wadding, Codd, Lambert, Parle, and others, which are still to be found in different parts of the County of Wexford." However, of these names, Ram and Godkin only date from the seventeenth century, whilst Rossiter, or Rawcetter, Lambert, or de Lamport, and de Prendergast, are Anglo-Norman.

On May 11th, 1169, Robert Fitz-Stephen and Maurice Fitz-Gerald, with an army of 300 archers, thirty knights, and sixty men at arms, landed at Bannow, Co. Wexford; and a second contingent arrived the day following, headed by Maurice Prendergast, accompanied by Hervey de Montemarisco, Meyler Fitz-Henry, Milo de Cogan, David Barry, with other adventurers—in all, ten knights and 200 archers. On May 15th, Dermot joined his new allies, and, on the following day, the combined troops marched through Enniscorthy to Wexford. "On their way they were joined by Dermot's illegitimate son, Donald Kavanagh, with 500 Irishmen." On nearing Wexford, they were encountered by about 2000 of the Dano Celtic inhabitants, who set fire to the suburbs, and retreated within the walls of the town. Fitz-Stephen led on the assault, but was repulsed with the loss of eighteen men. However, two days later, Wexford surrendered, and acknowledged the sovereignty of King Dermot. The Leinster monarch then granted the lordship of the city, with the adjoining cantreds, to Fitz-Stephen and Fitz-Gerald, whilst he gave Hervey de Montemarisco two cantreds lying between Wexford and Waterford. "Dermot then led his allies to his city of Ferns, where the soldiers were rested, and the knights feasted for three weeks." After a successful raid on Ossory, in June, in which 300 of the Ossorians were slain, Dermot again retired to Ferns, where he spent the Christmas of the year 1169.

In October, 1169, Roderic O'Connor, who, by the treaty of Ferns, had been given Conor and Art na-n Gall, the son and grandson of the King of Leinster, and the son of his foster-brother, O'Kelly, as hostages, remonstrated with Dermot for his flagrant violation of the conditions agreed on, and threatened to execute the princes in case Dermot refused to dismiss his new allies. The Leinster monarch

laughed at the royal message, regardless of the fate which threatened the hostages, who were, accordingly, put to death at Athlone; but Keating asserts that Roderic, being a humane man, did not put his threat into execution.

Dermot, in the spring of 1170, alike faithless to friend and foe, feeling secure in the sovereignty of Leinster, thought to get rid of Fitz-Stephen and the other Welsh freebooters, but the arrival of Raymond *le Gros*, on May 1st, 1170, and of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, better known as Strongbow, on August 23rd (culminating in the capture of Waterford on August 25th), gave the Anglo-Normans a firm footing in Ireland. Immediately after the taking of Waterford, the nuptials were celebrated between the Norman widower, de Clare, and Eva, the beautiful young daughter of Dermot MacMurrough, and the newly-married pair proceeded to Ferns, where they spent the honeymoon. The arrangement by which the King of Leinster made Strongbow heir to his kingdom was totally opposed to the Brehon law, and the legitimate heir was Dermot's brother, Murrough na-n Gael, or Murrogh of the Irish.

Dublin was captured on September 21st, 1170, and again at Whitsuntide, 1171; and an old Norman chronicler tells us that Donald Kavanagh, in command of the County Wexford troops, ably seconded the efforts of Raymond le Gros on this latter occasion, "who continually invoked his patron St. David, highly venerated by the Wexford allies, as the instructor of St. Mogue." Dermot MacMurrough died at the monastery of Ferns, on May 14th (the date is also given as May 1st and May 7th), 1171, and, at his own request, was buried "near the shrines of St. Maedhog (Mogue) and St. Moling."¹ Most visitors to Ferns are pointed out "Dermot's Pillar," or the broken Celtic cross, which was erected over the monarch's grave, in the churchyard of the cathedral, though some silly legend has it that he was interred at Baltinglass.

¹ Readers of English history will have read how King John desired that his body might be buried in the choir of Worcester Cathedral, "between the tombs of St. Oswald and St. Wolstan," which, accordingly, was done in October, 1216.

Immediately after his father's death, Donald Kavanagh, seeing that the Anglo-Normans were gaining ground, boldly renounced all alliance with them, and joined King Roderic in the common cause against the enemy. Having collected some of the forces of Hy Kinsellagh he besieged Robert Fitz-Stephen in the fort which that Welshman had erected at Ferry Carrig, near Wexford. Strongbow sent a strong detachment from Dublin to assist Fitz-Stephen, but, having been sorely harassed by the Irish in the defiles of Idrone (Co. Carlow), these arrived too late, as Prince Donald had captured Carrick Castle, and put part of the garrison to the sword—taking Fitz-Stephen and the rest as prisoners to the island of Begerin. The only incident of purely local interest at this time is the capture of Murrough O'Brien of the Duffrey, near Enniscorthy. Maurice Regan tell us that "O'Brien of the Duffrey [Murrough O'Brien] conspired against Strongbow, although he had given hostages"—and he was beheaded early in October.

Henry II. landed at Passage, near Waterford, on Monday, October 18th, 1171, and, having remained during the winter in Dublin, spent the six weeks of Lent at Selskar (St. Sepulchre) Abbey, Wexford, and sailed from Wexford Haven on Easter Monday, April 17th, 1172.¹ The King ordered the erection of a royal castle, at Wexford, and committed the government of that county to William Fitz-Adelm de Burgo, Philip de Hastings, and Philip de Braose. Not long afterwards Wexford was incorporated as a borough. Strongbow remained at Ferns during the summer of 1172, and, in June, was celebrated the marriage of the Earl's natural daughter (some authorities call her his sister), Basilia, to Robert de Quincey, Constable and Standard Bearer of Leinster, who was assigned by his

¹ In March, 1172, whilst King Henry was hunting in the Forest of Glynn, near Killurin, he was attacked one day by a wild boar, which terrified the monarch and almost unhorsed him, but, fortunately, one of the attendant knights, John de Furlong, saved him. For this bravery, Henry directed that Furlong should get a tract of the adjoining country, and Carrigmannon was assigned the lucky huntsman, whose descendants held the property (over 1000 acres of land) till May 6th, 1638, when James Furlong sold it to Robert Devereux, of Wexford, for £2,500.

father-in-law the district known as the Duffrey—so familiar to the denizens of Enniscorthy.

Robert de Quincey, Baron of Daffryn, *i.e.*, of the Duffrey, was slain in February, 1173, whilst aiding Strongbow in an expedition against O'Dempsey, Lord of Glenmalure, in the southern portion of Co. Kildare. In the following May, Strongbow and Raymond le Gros sailed for Normandy, where they defended the fortresses of the English king, and returned to Ireland before Christmas of the same year, for which service Strongbow was rewarded with the borough of Wexford and the castle of Wicklow in perpetuity. Raymond, who was an old lover of Basilia de Clare, and who had been deeply offended by her marriage with de Quincey, again took heart of grace, and determined to "pull off the double event" (to use a sporting phrase) by marrying the widow and obtaining the barony of the Duffrey, with the constablenesship of Leinster. However, Earl Richard gave the position of constable to Hervey de Montemarisco, and so Raymond went back to Carew Castle, in Wales, in high dudgeon.

The defeat of the Anglo-Normans, under Hervey de Montemarisco, at Thurles, by King Roderic O'Connor, was a great blow to Strongbow, and he determined to send for Raymond le Gros, promising him the hand of Basilia, and other temporal endowments. Raymond felt flattered at the offer, and returned to Waterford in September, 1174, accompanied by a numerous retinue of penniless relatives and hired troops. He facilitated Strongbow's escape from Waterford, and both marched to Wexford, where they remained during the winter and following spring. Selskar Abbey was the scene of a brilliant function in May, 1175, when Raymond was married to Basilia de Quincey, and Strongbow gave the newly-appointed Constable of Leinster the lands of Forth, Idrone, and Glascarrig.

I have dwelt rather at length on Raymond's doings, from 1172 to 1175, in order to dissipate the legend, which even yet obtains credence, to the effect that Raymond le Gros built the castle of Enniscorthy in 1173 or 1174. After the recapture of Limerick, in August, 1175, Raymond returned to Wexford; and, in March, 1176, he went again to the relief of Limerick, aided by Murchard MacMurrough,

Lord of Hy Kinsellagh, and Donal MacGillpatrick (Fitzpatrick) Prince of Ossory. "The King of Limerick (Donald O'Brien), informed of the march of the Anglo-Normans, raised the siege, and came to meet them as far as Cashel, where he fell into an ambuscade on Easter Saturday. His army was surrounded by the superior forces of the Anglo-Normans, and routed, after a vigorous resistance."

Richard de Clare died June 1st, 1177,¹ having bequeathed Ferns and Enniscorthy to Maurice Prendergast; but the King, in the autumn of the same year, gave Ferns to William Fitz-Adelm de Burgo, and Enniscorthy to Joseph O'Hea, Bishop of Ferns. On May 27th, 1177 Raymond le Gros was sworn in Lord Protector of Ireland, but Walter Allemand, Fitz-Adelm's nephew, was given the government of Wexford, whilst Fitz-Adelm himself, now Viceroy of Ireland, having annexed the castle of Wicklow, then belonging to Maurice Fitz-Gerald (d. Sept. 1st, 1177), gave Ferns to William, Gerald, and Alexander Fitz-Maurice. In 1178, Robert le Poer sent troops to pillage Omurthy and North Wexford, "whence they returned to Wexford loaded with booty, having assassinated Dunlaing O'Toole (brother of St. Lawrence), Lord of Imayle."

We read that Walter Allemand, who was Seneschal of Waterford and Wexford, in 1178, "received bribes from the Murrahoos (O'Murchoes or O'Murphys), of Hy Kinsellagh, to prejudice the Fitz-Geralds;" but, in the summer of 1179, Raymond le Gros was restored to his old position as Governor of Wexford borough and Constable of the Castle. In the spring of 1180, Raymond built the castle of Forth O'Nolan, that is Forth in Idrone, Co. Carlow, in order to protect his estates.

From all the facts stated above, it is certain that in the year 1181 Enniscorthy had no castle, and was a place of no importance—merely forming portion of the see lands of Ferns. The grand Cistercian Abbey of Dunbrody, which was founded by Hervey de Montemarisco, in 1178, was

¹ This is the generally accepted date, but authorities differ. Eva de Clare died June 1st, 1177, and her only daughter and heiress, Eva, or Isabella, married William le Mareschal, who, in her right, became Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford.

confirmed by Prince John in 1182, and again in 1185. Joseph O'Hea, Bishop of Ferns (of which see Enniscorthy is now the cathedral) died, full of years, in 1185, after a rule of fifty years; and, at the close of the same year, Albin O'Molloy, Cistercian Abbot of Baltinglass, was appointed his successor. Early in 1186, Raymond le Gros was laid at rest in the abbey of Dairinis Molana, in the diocese of Lismore, and, in 1187, his widow took for her third husband, Geoffrey Fitz-Robert (an illegitimate son of Robert Fitz-Stephen), who had built Wexford Castle.

Bishop O'Molloy, of Ferns, was present at the coronation of Richard I., on September 3rd, 1189. Geoffrey Fitz-Robert, Seneschal of Leinster, founded the priory of Kells, Co. Kilkenny, in 1193; and, in the same year, died Murty MacMurrough, nephew of King Dermot, Lord of Hy Kinsellagh, and ancestor of the MacDamores, Co. Wexford. Philip Prendergast, son of the valiant Maurice de Prendergast,¹ married Matilda, sole daughter and heiress of Robert de Quincey, in 1199, and, in 1205, was confirmed by King John in the barony of the Duffrey and lordship of Enniscorthy.

On April 3rd, 1206, King John signified his wish for the promotion of Bishop O'Molloy to the Archbishopric of Cashel, but the Pope declined to ratify the appointment. Five years later Geoffrey Fitz-Robert died. Among the subscribing witnesses, in 1212, to the new charter which was given to Duiske or Graiguenamanagh Abbey (founded, in 1168, by Dermot MacMurrough, and colonized from Stanley in 1204), were Bishop O'Molloy and Philip Prendergast.

From a careful sifting of all the official documents of this period, I have no hesitation in stating that the castle of Enniscorthy was built by Philip Prendergast, between the years 1199 and 1205; but at that date there were only a few houses built on the manor, which, as before mentioned, belonged to the see of Ferns. Bishop O'Molloy assisted at

¹ Maurice Prendergast gave his castle of Prendergast, in Pembrokehire, to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1177. Some years before his death he became a member of that powerful order at Kilmainham, Co. Dublin, and was Prior of Kilmainham at his death, in 1205.

the General Council of Lateran in 1216, and, on September 5th of that year, he was given the custody of the temporalities of Killaloe diocese — *sede vacante* — but the appointment to the vacant see was filled up on January 14th, 1217. In 1218, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford,¹ forcibly deprived the see of Ferns of two manors, and, in consequence, was excommunicated by the Bishop. He died under anathema on May 16th, 1219, and was buried in the Temple Church, London, on Ascension Thursday, being succeeded in the palatinate of Leinster by his son, William Marshall the younger. Three years later Bishop O'Molloy passed to his eternal reward, after a rule of over thirty-five years.

John St. John, Treasurer of Ireland, was appointed to the see of Ferns at the close of the year 1222, about which date the present castle of Ferns was completed (commenced by William Marshall in 1216), and the Bishop went to reside therein. William Marshall, junior, arrived as Justiciary of Ireland in June, 1224, but was replaced by Geoffrey de Marisco, on July 4th, 1226. From official documents of this period, we learn that Henry III., on July 7th, 1225, sent an order to Bishop St. John, relative to fairs and markets.

There is no question but that in 1226 the Anglo-Normans had a firm grip of the greater part of County Wexford, and one of the best proofs of this is that we still have many of their descendants in the "model county," as is evident from the names Barry, Browne, Cheevers, Codd, Devereux, Gifford, Esmonde, Hore, Hay, Lambert, Prendergast, Redmond, Furlong, Mitton, Whitty, Fortune, Sutton, Sinnott, Rossiter, &c. It is also not a little remarkable that the inhabitants of the baronies of Forth and Bargy, especially the former, preserved their peculiar Anglo-Norman-Flemish dialect, "with distinctive peculiarities of manner, social and domestic usage, and even of costume," until the year 1780. The eminent antiquarian,

¹ In fulfilment of a vow, William Marshall, in 1200, founded the abbey of Tintern, Co. Wexford, and colonized it with Cistercians from Tintern, in Monmouthshire. His wife, Isabella, died in 1224, and was buried in the latter abbey.

Vallancey, collected specimens of the barony of Forth dialect in 1788, which he published in the second volume of the "Transactions R.I.A." The songs and carols are particularly interesting, as being pre-Chaucerian English, with some loan words from the Celtic.

And now we come to the period when Enniscorthy was to emerge from the obscurity of a hamlet and develop into a village of some pretensions. On April 8th, 1227, Bishop St. John, with the consent of the Chapter of Ferns, assigned the manor and town of Enniscorthy (variously written *Inis Corthadh* and *Iniscordy*) to Philip Prendergast and his wife, Maud de Quincey, "in exchange for six ploughlands for ever to the Bishop and Chapter of Ferns, so that the said Philip and his wife might hold the said town of Enniscorthy as a lay-fee for ever to them and their heirs—and the Bishop and Chapter to hold the said six ploughlands free from them and their heirs." Five of these ploughlands, the former inheritance of Maurice Prendergast, were situated in Ballyregan, near Ferns, and one near Clone—four miles from Enniscorthy—which had previously been held by the Fitz-Henrys.

Philip Prendergast, the new owner of Enniscorthy, who was summoned as a baron in 1206, 1207, and 1221, died during the summer of 1227, leaving his estates to his son Gerald. This Gerald, whose first wife was Matilda, sister of Theobald Butler, by whom he had an only daughter, Maria, was summoned by Henry III. to the Brittany war of 1229, in which he distinguished himself, and, during his absence, his Enniscorthy property was held in custody by Lord William de Valence until the autumn of 1231. Meantime, William Marshall, the younger, Earl of Pembroke, died in March, 1231, and was buried in the choir of the "Black Abbey," Kilkenny, being succeeded in his vast Leinster possessions by his brother Richard. On April 11th, 1231, the King wrote to the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Ferns, asking them to give all possible assistance to Walrand Teutonicus, who was sent to take possession of the castles and estates of the Earl of Pembroke.

On the return of Gerald Prendergast in October, 1231, the Lord of Enniscorthy and the Duffrey was confirmed

by Bishop St. John in the grant which had been given, as above, to his father. As a thanksgiving for his preservation while on foreign service, he founded the Priory of St. John, about a mile from Enniscorthy, of which I shall treat in a separate article. The Bishop of Ferns was deprived of the Treasurership of Ireland, on September 6th, 1232, which office was then given to Peter de Rievaulx ; and, on December 23rd, 1234, the King issued a mandate to Gerald Prendergast, "to restore to Anselm Marshall the stores and chattels removed from his land, and, also, the hostages taken from him after he came to the King's place," failing which, the Lord Justice, Maurice Fitz-Gerald, was to see and have the said mandate carried out. In order to explain this mandate more clearly, it is as well to state that, on April 1st, 1234, Richard Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, was basely set upon in an ambuscade on the Curragh of Kildare by some of the Anglo-Norman nobles; and he died on "Palm Sunday, the sixteenth day after he had been mortally wounded," being interred in the Black Abbey, Kilkenny. He was succeeded in his title and estates by his brother Gilbert, who died childless in 1241, leaving two brothers, Walter, Earl of Pembroke, and Anselm, above mentioned.

Geoffrey de Marisco, the ex-Viceroy of Ireland, died a poverty-stricken exile in 1242 ; and Richard de Burgh, another ex-Justiciary (1228 to 1229), fell a victim during the Gascogne war. Notwithstanding the great services rendered to the Crown by Lord Maurice Fitz-Gerald, he was superseded as Justiciary by John Fitz-Geoffrey (whom O'Donovan incorrectly states to have been a son of Geoffrey de Marisco), son of Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, on November 4th, 1245. Gerald Prendergast, Lord of Enniscorthy, took for his second wife a daughter of the above-mentioned Richard de Burgh, by whom he had a daughter, Matilda.

Bishop St. John died in 1243, and was succeeded by Geoffrey St. John, Vicar-General of Ferns, who went to reside, like his predecessor, at Ferns Castle. It is not a little remarkable that all the subsequent Bishops of Ferns, until the appointment of Bernard O'Donnell, O.S.F., in 1541, were Anglo-Normans.

Walter Marshall died without issue in November, 1245,

and was succeeded by his fifth and youngest brother, Anslem, who died "on the Nones of December, after enjoying the family honours eighteen days." In 1246, the Palatinate of Leinster was partitioned among the five sisters of Earl Anslem, in which a great portion of the present County Wexford fell to the lot of Joan, daughter of Maud Marshall, who had married Warren de Monte Caniso, better known as William, sixth Earl of Warren and Surrey. This Joan, or Johanna, married William de Valence, who, in her right, became Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford. From the Patent Rolls we learn that the Wexford estates were at that date valued at £341 10s. 4d. per annum—Ferns being estimated at £91 15s., Rosslare, at £68 19s. 11d., and Wexford borough, at £42 1s. 5d. New Ross became the portion of Matilda, eldest daughter of Isabella, Countess of Pembroke, who married Ralph Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.¹

Gerald Prendergast died without male issue in August, 1251, and his vast estates were divided between his two daughters, Maria and Matilda. Maria married John de Cogan, sometime Lord Justice of Ireland, and Matilda was the wife of Maurice de Rochford. At an inquisition, held in October, 1251, the Lord of Enniscorthy was found seized of lands in County Wexford, estimated at the then large annual rental of £195 8s. 1d., equal to £3,000 a year. There were various disputes, as a natural consequence, by the respective husbands of Maria and Matilda, co-heiresses of the Enniscorthy and Cork estates.

On February 24th, 1252, Henry III. gave orders to Sir John Fitz-Geoffrey, Viceroy of Ireland, "not to give seisin of the manors of Ferns and Odou (Odogh or Hy Duagh, near Gorey), or any part thereof, but, till further orders, to take possession of them for the King." At this date, Maurice de Rochford, the husband of Matilda Prendergast, was confirmed in the lordship of Enniscorthy and the Duffrey. Bishop St. John died in 1258, and was

¹ On February 22nd, 1253, the King wrote to John Fitz-Geoffrey, Justiciary of Ireland, ordering him not to molest the Earl of Norfolk in regard to the liberties and customs of right belonging to the borough of New Ross.

succeeded in the see of Ferns by Hugh de Lamport (Lambert), an Anglo-Norman Canon, and Treasurer of Ferns, who got restitution of temporalities on July 10th, 1258.

In 1263 there was a protracted suit as to the right of mills on the Avonbeg, between Maurice Fitz-Maurice Rochford and John Fitz-John de Cogan, both of whom claimed the grant as heirs of Gerald Prendergast. From 1260 to 1278 there were constant disputes between the Anglo-Norman settlers in County Wexford—called by the Irish the *Contae Reagh*.¹ Bishop Lambert died at Ferns Castle on May 23rd, 1282, and, in July, 1283, Richard of Northampton was consecrated, having previously received temporalities on October 13th, 1282.

Murtogh MacMurrough, King of Leinster, and Árt, his brother, were slain at Arklow by the English in 1282; but, in 1295, we read that Newcastle was razed by Geoffrey O'Farrell. The Rochford family held Enniscorthy from 1252, and, in 1302, it seemed as if their rule was likely to be of long duration from the fact that Sir Maurice de Rochford was Vice-Justiciary of Ireland from June to September, 1302. However, a few years later, their influence declined, and the Clan Kavanagh resumed sway over Leinster.

Bishop Richard died January 13th, 1304, and, on June 22nd, Simon of Evesham was consecrated his successor in the see of Ferns, but died on September 1st of the same year, whereupon the Chapter elected Robert Walrand, Vicar-General of Dublin. Bishop Robert went the way of all flesh at Ferns Castle, on November 17th, 1311, and was succeeded by Adam of Northampton, who was consecrated on Trinity Sunday, 1312.

¹ On February 8th, 1280, as appears from the Rolls of the Exchequer, Robert Furlong, of Carrigmannon, Co. Wexford, summoned Sir John Cass for robbing him of sixpence, under plea of a patent from William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford, whereby he was entitled to levy fines; but Sir John was amerced in the sum claimed, and half a mark fine. However, the Seneschal of Wexford and others were attached for imprisoning Sir John Cass. In 1289 and 1294 we find Henry Esmonde as trustee of the estates of William de Valence, deceased.

In 1305, Sir Gilbert Sutton,¹ Seneschal of Wexford, was slain by the Irish, near the village of Hamon le Gros (Clohamon, about six miles from Enniscorthy), "which Hamon fought stoutly in the engagement, and merely escaped by his great valour." However, the old chronicler, under date of 1313, informs us that the afore-mentioned Hamon and his friend, Sir William Prendergast, were slain at Skerries. In January, 1316, Sir Maurice Rochford, of Enniscorthy, was one of those nobles who renewed the oath of allegiance to Sir John Hotham, the Royal Commissioner, who had been sent over for that purpose. Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford, came to Ireland in 1315, and he gave a new charter to the borough of Wexford, dated Radcliff on Trent, July 25th, 1317, subscribed to by Sir Stephen Devereux, Henry Esmonde, and others.

During the invasion of Ireland by the Bruces, 1315 to 1318, the County Wexford was on the Irish side. The worthy Bishop of Ferns was intensely Irish in his sympathies, so much so that, on August 6th, 1317, a writ was issued to Roger Mortimer, Lord Justice, to arrest the Bishop, and arraign him for high treason. Edward Bruce was defeated and slain at Faughard, County Louth, on Sunday, October 14th, 1318, and Bishop Adam was soon after pardoned. It must not be imagined that this prelate was unmindful of the interests of religion in his diocese. In 1320, a priory for Hermits of St. Augustine, or Austin Friars, was founded at New Ross by William Roche; and two years previously, namely, on the Feast of St. Bartholomew, a Provincial Chapter of the Franciscans was held at New Ross.²

¹ On February 14th, 1302, and again in 1303, Sir Henry Esmonde and Sir Gilbert Sutton were ordered "to provide ships for the king's use in Wexford and other places, to rendezvous at Dalkey," and be in readiness "to transport Richard de Burgo and his armament to Scotland" (31st of Edw. I.) Among the ports of Ireland at this time Ross must have been of considerable importance, for whilst Dublin and Waterford only supplied *one* ship each, Ross furnished two. The same Sir Gilbert Sutton and Sir Henry Esmonde, Seneschal of Wexford, were commissioned, in 1305, "to enquire into the non-receipt of certain monies levied on the people of County Wexford, the same to be applied to protect them from the attacks of their enemies in Mount Leinster."

² At a Chapter, held at Clane in 1345, the Franciscan Friary of New Ross was assigned to the wardenship of Dublin.

On the death of Aymer de Valence, in 1323, Sir Maurice Rochford, Lord of Enniscorthy, acquired four-and-a-half knights' fees in Kiltaly, "which were waste by reason of the wars of the Irish." However, four years later, namely, in 1327, the Irish of Leinster elected Donnell MacMurrough as King of the province, and the usurping rule of the Rochfords in Enniscorthy and the Duffrey came to an end. Before the close of the year 1327, Sir Henry Traherne received £100 for the capture of King Donnell, whom he brought a prisoner to Leixlip; but the Leinster monarch soon after regained his freedom through the connivance of Adam de Nangle. This faithful Anglo-Norman gave him a rope, by which MacMurrough escaped from Dublin Castle in January, 1328, although Nangle's life "paid the forfeit of this generous act, for which he was hanged." In June, 1329, Traherne was made prisoner in his house at Kilbeg, near Enniscorthy, by Richard, son of Philip O'Nolan, but, in revenge, O'Nolan's lands in Forth were laid waste by the Earl of Ormonde.

Early in September, 1329, Maurice Fitz-Thomas, the newly-created Earl of Desmond, by order of Sir John Darcy, Justiciary of Ireland, marched at the head of 10,000 troops through Leinster, burned the territory of the O'Nolans in Wexford, carried fire and sword into the country of the O'Murphys, of which Castle Ellis was the chief residence, taking hostages from them, and recovered the castle of Leix from O'Dempsey. However, between the years 1328 and 1331, Art MacMurrough recovered most of the present County Carlow, and a goodly portion of County Wexford. This conquest was not effected without severe losses on the part of the Irish, and, in 1330, as Clynns writes, "the citizens of the borough of Wexford killed 400 Irish rebels on the banks of the Slaney." Again, on April 21st, 1331, the English forces defeated the troops of Hy Kinsellagh in North Wexford, but very soon after the O'Tooles took the castles of Arklow and Newcastle, and, in August, they burned and pillaged the city and castle of Ferns. The English, under Sir Anthony Lucy, Lord Deputy, recaptured Arklow Castle, as also Clonmore, in the summer of 1332, and had it re-built; but the O'Tooles reduced the castle of Newcastle to ashes.

From 1330 to 1335 there are various entries testifying to the disintegration of the Anglo-Normans in County Wexford; and in November, 1332, Sir Anthony Lucey was recalled. In 1336 we read, in the "Annals of Friar Clynn," that "Master Howell de Bathe, Archdeacon of Ossory, Andrew Avenal, and Adam de Bathe, were murdered by the O'Briens of the Duffrey." As a last resource, King Edward resolved to send over a "strong" Viceroy, and, accordingly, Sir John Charlton, Baron of Powys, arrived in Dublin on October 13th, 1337, but was unable to rehabilitate the "English interest," with the result that he was replaced in October, 1338, by his brother Thomas, Bishop of Hereford. This prelate distinguished himself in September, 1339, by leading a body of troops into the territory of Idrone, County Carlow (belonging to the Kavanaghs), from which he carried off an immense booty; but he was recalled in March, 1340. Five years of strife then ensued, and, in September, 1345, Sir Raoul d'Ufford, Lord Justice of Ireland, succeeded in obtaining hostages from one of the County Wexford clans.

In 1346 the clergy of Ferns granted the King £10 as a contribution towards defending the Pale; and, in the same year, the Carmelite Friars established a Convent at Horetown, where they got a foundation from the Furlongs. On October 29th, Bishop Adam died, being succeeded by Hugh of Leixlip, who was consecrated on Passion Sunday, 1347, but was deprived in August of the same year. Dr. Geoffrey Groffield, O.S.A., was appointed Bishop of Ferns by the Holy See on the 3rd of the Nones of March, 1347, but died of the plague, or the Black Death, on October 22nd, 1349. Meantime, John Esmonde, Archdeacon of Ferns, who had been irregularly consecrated Bishop of Ferns in 1347, held Ferns Castle and the temporalities of the see. Dr. William Charnels, O.P., was consecrated in Rome as successor to Dr. Groffield, and was confirmed in the see on April 19th, 1350, receiving restitution of temporalities on October 15th. We learn from Ware that on April 23rd, 1351, a writ was issued by Bishop Charnels directing the High Sheriff of County Wexford "to forthwith remove all lay force from the church and diocese of Ferns, raised to disturb the Bishop in the exercise of his

spiritual office." For all that, such was the personal and family influence of Bishop Esmonde that "the sheriff was unable to execute the writ, inasmuch as John Esmonde, late bishop, William Furlong, and twenty-six others had opposed him." It was only in September, 1351, that Bishop Charnels, by strategy, gained possession of Ferns Castle; and, on the 3rd of the Ides of January, 1352, Bishop Esmonde¹ was appointed by Pope Clement VI. to the see of Emly.

In 1347 Donal Oge MacMurrough, "the legitimate heir to the Kingdom of Leinster, was assassinated by his own vassals;" and, on September 15th, 1352, Sir Maurice Rochford, the last Anglo-Norman lord of Enniscorthy, brought the hostages of the MacMurroughs, the O'Murchoes, or Murphys, of Castle Ellis, and those of the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes to Wexford Castle, where they were detained in custody of the Constable of the King's Fortress. A cousin and namesake of this Rochford was at this period Bishop of Limerick, and was for a time Vice-Justiciary of Ireland during the absence in England of Sir Thomas de Rokeby. We learn from the *Four Masters* that, in 1354, "MacMurrough was put to death by the English," after which a fierce strife ensued. Seven years later, namely, in 1361, as is chronicled by the *Four Masters*, "Art MacMurrough and Donnell *Reagh*, heir apparent to the Kingship of Leinster, were treacherously captured by Lionel, Duke of Clarence, and imprisoned. They afterwards died in prison."²

Bishop Charnels was appointed Lord Treasurer of Ireland on February 23rd, 1361, but died in July, 1362.

¹ In 1366 Thomas Esmonde, Lieutenant to John Bottleson, Constable of Wexford Castle, and John Esmonde, were the two Justices of County Wexford. Thomas was a nephew of Bishop Esmonde. The Bishop, on his resignation of the see of Ferns, was given the prebends of Taghmon and Coolstuffe, as the report of the death of Robert Walshe, Bishop of Emly in 1352, was false. However, Dr. Walsh died in January, 1356, whereupon Bishop Esmonde was collated to the see of Emly, and he received restitution of temporalities on April 27th, 1356. His demise is chronicled on April 4th, 1362.

² At this date Murtogh MacMurrough was Abbot of Ferns.

His successor was Thomas Denn, Archdeacon of Ferns, who was "provided" to the see by Pope Urban V., on February 20th, 1363, and was consecrated on Trinity Sunday. Under date of 1368 our ancient annalists relate that Dermot *Lavderg* MacMurrough, King of Leinster, was taken prisoner by the Anglo-Normans of County Wexford; and, in the following year, he and his son Gerald were put to death by the English.

After the year 1368 the English settlers had become, even as it is said, *Hiberniores Hibernicis ipsis*. Sir William Windsor, Viceroy, carried on a vigorous campaign throughout Wicklow and North Wexford in 1370, but with no decided result; and he was recalled in the following year. He was again entrusted with the Viceroyalty, and landed in that capacity at Waterford, on April 18th, 1374. The only notable incidents of his rule were the passing of a law against absentee landlords, or owners of real property in Ireland, and the repairing of the walls of Ross.

In 1375 a parliament was held at Naas, and it was publicly stated that the Viceroy could not proceed southwards owing to the hostility of the Irish; and even the judges dare not hold assizes in Carlow for the same reason.¹ The *Four Masters*, under date of 1375, record as follows: "Donogh MacMurrough, King of Leinster, was treacherously slain by the English, among whom he had often before spread desolation." From another ancient source we learn that this valiant King of Leinster was done to death "*per Bulentam de Catherlogh*." Here it is fitting to chronicle the subsidy of eighty marks per annum which was paid to the MacMurrough family from the year 1355, by the Crown as "blackmail;" and a reference to it is made in the Close Rolls, under date of October 19th, 1379, from which we learn that this sum "was payable out of the Irish Exchequer half quarterly, by ten marks at a time, for the good behaviour of MacMurrough towards the King, and his peace, and his liege subjects in Leinster."

Coincident with the accession of King Richard II. in 1377, Art MacMurrough Kavanagh, King of Leinster,

¹ In 1375 Thomas Esmonde and John Synnott were the two Justices of County Wexford.

recovered the town and district around Enniscorthy from the Rochfords, as also the barony of Duffrey. James, third Earl of Ormonde, then Viceroy, received a writ from the Privy Council that he should, "out of his own money, advance one-fourth of the eighty marks demanded by Art Kavanagh as his customary tribute, and also to retain the said Art, on behalf of King Richard, for one year." No wonder that Butler tendered his resignation in 1378, after establishing the seat of justice at Naas, County Kildare.

We have various entries as regards the see of Ferns at this period, from which it is evident that the old city was going to decay. In 1376 Gilbert Sutton, Precentor of Ferns, received pardon for his political leanings; and, in 1379, Richard Sutton, of Clonard, got a grant of various lands from Thomas Denn, Bishop of Ferns. Under date of 1381, as we learn from the *Four Masters*, Donnell O'Murphy, Chief of Hy Felimy (Barony of Ballaghkeen), was slain by the Hy Kinsellagh; and, in 1383, Art MacMurrough, heir presumptive to the kingdom of Leinster, was slain by the English of County Wexford. The Augustinian Priory of Clonmines, which had been founded by Art MacMurrough, in 1382, was completed by Nicholas the Clerk in 1385. King Art, in 1386, killed numbers of the English in Ossory.

The church of St. Mary's, which is still the name of the parish of Enniscorthy, was erected by Art MacMurrough in 1388, or certainly before the year 1390, which shews that the portion of the town across the river, as separate from Templeshannon, was then becoming populous, though, of course, St. Senan's was recognised as the "old church." Between the years 1390 and 1394 MacMurrough was unquestioned Lord of Enniscorthy; and in September, 1394, he led a great army to New Ross, "which he burned, with its houses and castles, and carried away from it gold, silver, and hostages." On October 12th, 1394, Richard II. was compelled to come to terms with King Art, at Ballygorey, near Carlow, whom he knighted in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on March 25th, 1395, but in 1397 MacMurrough captured the town and castle of Carlow. On the Feast of St. Margaret, July 20th, 1398, was

fought the famous battle of Kells, County Kilkenny, in which the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes gave a crushing defeat to the English army; and Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, heir-apparent to the Crown of England, and Viceroy of Ireland, was among the slain. A few years later the Pale was confined to the four counties of Louth, Meath, Dublin, and Kildare.

Bishop Denn, of Ferns, died August 27th, 1400, and was succeeded by Patrick Barrett, O.S.A., who was consecrated at Rome in December of that year, and got restitution of temporalities on April 11th, 1401. Ferns Castle was held in 1403 by Art MacMurrough, as were also the castles of Enniscorthy and Camolin; and Bishop Barrett, with the approval of the Holy See, transferred the episcopal chair of Ferns to New Ross. About the same time flourished another most distinguished Austin Canon of the diocese of Ferns, namely, Father Coll O'Doran, who wrote the *Annals of Ireland*, which were largely copied by Ware. O'Doran died in 1408.¹

The warlike MacMurrough, King of Leinster, who made a successful raid on Wexford in 1401, burned the castle of Ballyteigue, County Wexford, on Tuesday, the morrow of the Feast of St. Barnabas, June 12th, 1408, which was afterwards rebuilt by Sir Richard Whitty. Thomas, Duke of Clarence, was Viceroy of Ireland at this time, and he spent some short time at New Ross as the guest of Bishop Barrett, who was appointed Chancellor of Ireland on June 11th, 1410. Dr. Barrett built the stately castle of Mountgarrett, and repaired the church of St. Mary, New Ross, so as to make it worthy of a cathedral town. Three years later he retired from the chancellorship, which was resumed by Archbishop Cranley, and devoted himself to compiling a registry of the Diocese of Ferns, with an account of his predecessors, a work which, alas! has disappeared. He died November 10th, 1415, and was interred, at his own desire, in Kells Priory, County Kilkenny, of which he had been a Regular Canon.

¹ Father O'Doran, one of the County Wexford O'Dorans, transcribed the *Tripartite Life of St. Patrick*, which was one of the three copies of that famous MS. utilized by Colgan.

In 1415 Sir John Talbot,¹ Lord Furnivall, made an expedition into the territory of North Wexford and the Duffrey, but his march was of little avail, as the Kavanaghs were too powerful. We read that in 1416 Art MacMurrough attacked the town of Wexford, and "took 340 prisoners in one day." This invincible warrior was at length poisoned at New Ross, on January 12th, 1418, and was buried at St. Mullins, being succeeded in the kingship of Leinster by his son, Gerald.

After a vacancy of over two years, Robert Whitty, of Ballyteigue Castle, Precentor of the Diocese, was "provided" by the Holy See as Bishop of Ferns, on February 17th, 1418. Gerald MacArt was now King of Leinster, but on May 4th, 1419, his brother and heir, Donald MacArt, was taken prisoner by Lord Furnivall, and sent to the Tower of London, where he was detained for nine years, "when he was ransomed by his own province." Two years after his release, namely, in 1430, he joined the O'Tooles; and, in 1431, on the death of Gerald MacArt, he was acknowledged by the clan as King of Leinster, taking up his residence at the Castle of Enniscorthy. This monarch is best known as Donald *Reagh*, or Donald *Fuscus*=the brown or the swarthy complexioned, and he received the usual tribute of eighty marks annually from the Crown. In 1442 the English troops of Wexford killed his son and heir, and took seven of his chief warriors prisoners not far from Enniscorthy; but in 1443 Donald attacked Wexford town, and compelled the governor to deliver up the seven prisoners, and also to pay eight hundred marks *eric* (fine) for the murder of his son.²

¹ His brother Thomas was Prior of Kilmainham, and his brother Richard was Archbishop of Dublin.

² In 1435 Pope Eugenius IV. commissioned Bishop Whitty, of Ferns, to absolve the citizens of New Ross from any ecclesiastical censures which had been incurred by their ancestors in regard to the murder of some Crutched Friars. In the same year the Colonial Privy Council addressed a letter to the King, through the Viceroy, Sir Thomas Stanley, stating that "one hundred and forty-eight castles and forts in County Carlow, within the previous nine years, had been destroyed or taken possession of by the Irish enemy."

On July 17th, 1447, Lord Talbot de Furnivall (created Earl of Shrewsbury on May 20th, 1442), Viceroy of Ireland, was created Earl of Wexford and Waterford, but he soon afterwards returned to England, leaving his brother Richard, Archbishop of Dublin, as Lord Deputy, who died August 15th, 1449. In 1450 Bishop Whitty, then eighty years of age, was given an assistant prelate in the person of a certain Thady O.S.F., but the particulars regarding him are very scant.

Enniscorthy was now a most important stronghold, and King Donald *Fuscus* reigned supreme; in fact, from 1444 to 1454 the English had very little influence in the *Contae Reagh*, or County Wexford. From a recently published Gaelic poem, written by an Irish bard in the year 1454, there is an interesting account of a famous "hosting" made by King Donald in the territory of Hy Felimý (Barony of Ballaghkeen), in said year, from which I take the following:—

"[A.D. 1454.] We were on it for eight days and eight nights to spite the men of Leinster; and the reason why I mention it above every victory and every hosting, and all that he took of castles, is that I myself was by his side in this hosting, and for the abundance of wine, and meat, and *usquebaugh*,¹ and all manner of entertainment."

The viceroyalty of the Earl of Kildare, from 1455 to 1459, effected nothing of consequence, and during this period the County Wexford had to contribute £20 annually to MacMurrough, in addition to the "black rent." In 1460 the King of Leinster founded a magnificent monastery for Franciscan Friars of the Strict Observance at Enniscorthy, of which I shall treat at length in another section. The aged Bishop Whitty went the way of all flesh early in 1458, and had as successor John Purcell, who, on November 30th of the same year, was appointed Collector of Peter's Pence for Ireland. The Friary of Enniscorthy was

¹ Dr. Kuno Meyer says that this statement is remarkable as being "the earliest record in the Irish Annals of the word *usquebaugh* or whiskey." However, in the *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, under date of 1405, there is chronicled the death of Richard MacRannell (Reynolds), chieftain of Moynetirawley, from a surfeit of *aqua vite*.

munificently endowed by the "noble founder," and was dedicated to the service of God on October 18th, 1460—Father Nehemias O'Donoghue being Vicar Provincial. Seven years later, namely, in 1467, Sadh, or Sabina, daughter of the Leinster monarch, was married to Sir James Butler, in the old church of Listerlin, diocese of Ossory.

In 1463 the Earl of Desmond, to accentuate his temporary triumph, and to spite Donald *Fuscus*, held a parliament at Wexford, seized the castle, and ordered the walls of the town to be thoroughly repaired. Butler, in revenge for this, and to prove his sincerity of alliance with the Kavanaghs, burned New Ross in 1469. Notwithstanding the civil strife which raged violently from 1460 to 1476, King Donald was not unmindful of the interests of religion. There is yet preserved in Kilkenny Castle the original of the grant which this petty sovereign gave to the Cistercian Abbey of Duiske (Graiguenamanagh), County Kilkenny, by which he made over to the monks "a charge of eightpence lawful money of England, on every plough working in his dominion of Leinster." This grant is dated from Enniscorthy Castle, 3rd of April, 1475, and is sealed with his great seal, with the legend: "*Sigillum Donall Meic Murchada REGIS LAGENIAE.*" Among the subscribing witnesses are the Rev. Dermot O'Bolger, rector of Carnew; Charles and Gerald, sons of the aforesaid King Donald; Aulaf O'Bolger,¹ physician; Donald, son of Hugh O'Byrne, laic; Hugh O'Farrell, Cormac O'Brien, Magnus O'Brien, William MacAylward, clerics of the Diocese of Ferns, and many others.

In connexion with the above document, which was read before the Royal Society of Antiquaries, on January 17th, 1883, by the Rev. James Graves, this excellent authority (whose loss all Irish archæologists must deplore) was unable to identify some of the names; and he was also unaware of the date when King Donald died, merely presuming that

¹ The O'Bolgers were a famous race of leeches or physicians. Donogh O'Bolger, who flourished in 1465, wrote treatises on various diseases, and also a translation of Aristotle's work, *On the Nature of Matter*.

“he was alive in April, 1475.” Fortunately, from a perusal of an ancient missal, belonging to the now extinct Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, the *obit* of Donald *Fuscus* Kavanagh, King of Leinster, is stated to have occurred on the 21st of April, 1476, at the age of eighty. This missal was written “for the use of the Friars Minor of Enniscorthy,” and the body of the king was laid at rest within the Friary Church. “During his whole life,” as we read, “he never made peace with the English, but sought out and attacked them wherever he could find them.”

Bishop Purcell, of Ferns, died in 1479, and on November 26th of the same year, Laurence Neville, Archdeacon of Ferns, a blood relation of the baron of *Ros-Carlan* or Rosegarland,¹ was appointed his successor, receiving restitution of temporalities on May 20th, 1480. From 1478 to 1481 there was much internecine strife, and, in connexion with the year 1481, we read that “Cahir Kavanagh, the son of MacMurrough, was slain by the English of County Wexford.” On May 5th, 1481, the Earl of Kildare was appointed Lord Deputy, and a decree was passed which prohibited the inhabitants of the Pale from holding any intercourse with the native Irish. As the MacMurroughs held possession of Ferns and Enniscorthy, Bishop Neville resided at the Manor of Rosegarland, but, strange to say, he sided with the pretensions of Lambert Simnel in 1487.

Under date of 1488, the Irish Annals tell us that “Mahon, son of the O’Murchoe, or Murphy, Lord of Hy Felimy, *i.e.*, the present barony of Ballaghkeen, not far from Enniscorthy, was treacherously slain by Donogh MacArt MacMurrough, Lord of Hy Kinsellagh;” and, in the following year, a dreadful plague raged throughout Ireland. At this period Murrough *Ballagh*, King of Leinster, who resided at Enniscorthy Castle, was a great ally of the Butlers; and he married Joan (daughter of

¹ In 1380, Simon, son of Sir Raymond Neville, acquired the Castle and Manor of Rosegarland, County Wexford. David Neville, Baron of Rosegarland, was attainted in 1534 for implication in the rebellion of Silken Thomas, and was executed by Elizabeth, in 1560.

Edmund MacRichard Butler), sister to the Earl of Ormonde.

Sir Edward Poynings arrived as Lord Deputy on the 13th of October, 1494, and convened the celebrated parliament which met at Drogheda on December 1st, when the statute was passed known as Poynings's law. This parliament voted a subsidy of £454 to Captain Thomas Garth, commander of the English forces in Leinster. The dispute regarding the title to the Ormonde estates was settled on August 16th, 1496, by the death of Sir James Butler, who was killed by Sir Piers, the legitimate heir. It is pleasing to chronicle that, in 1501, "a general peace prevailed in the provinces of Leinster and Munster."

On the death of Bishop Neville, in 1503, Edmond Comerford, Dean of Ossory, was consecrated for the see of Ferns in 1505, but died on Easter Sunday, 1509. His successor was Nicholas Comyn, who was duly consecrated in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, on January 20th, 1510. This prelate resided in the castle of Fethard, and attended the Provincial Council of Dublin, on September 21st, 1512.

Murrough *Ballagh*, sovereign of Leinster, died in 1511, and was succeeded by Art *Boy* (*Buidhe*=the fallow complexioned, or the yellow) Kavanagh, "who received," as the old annalists tell us, "twenty *marte* lands [*i.e.*, fattening lands for beeves or kine] from his father, King Donald *Fuscus*. This Art ruled the kingdom of Leinster during a stormy period of seven years, and died at Enniscorthy Castle in 1518, whereupon the kingship devolved on his brother Gerald, "of Ferns." Bishop Comyn was translated from Ferns to Lismore and Waterford, on April 13th, 1519; and on the same day, John Purcell, Austin Canon of St. Catherine's, Waterford, was "provided" his successor, and was consecrated at Rome, May 6th, 1519.

Murty Kavanagh, a younger son of Art *Boy*, on May 20th, 1521, during the viceroyalty of the Earl of Surrey, seized the freehold lands of Enniscorthy; and in the following year, on the death of King Gerald, "of Ferns," he was proclaimed by the clan as "the MacMurrough." In consequence of his family connexion with the Ormonde

faction, it is interesting to mention that in October, 1521, Henry VIII. wrote a letter to the Earl of Surrey to arrange a marriage between Sir Piers Butler and the celebrated Anne Boleyn; and, had such an event taken place, the history of the so-called "Reformation" might have been written differently. The removal of the Earl of Ormonde from the government of Ireland in 1524 was followed by the creation of Sir Thomas Boleyn, on June 18th, 1525, as Viscount Rochford, "one of the long contested titles of the house of Ormonde," which facts were a presage of the ascendancy of "Mistress Anne."

Murtogh, or Murty, Kavanagh, King of Leinster, the last provincial sovereign who resided at the castle of Enniscorthy, drew up an agreement with Sir Piers Butler, eighth Earl of Ormonde, on August 28th, 1525, in which the King of Leinster agreed to resign all claim to the lordship of Arklow—then regarded as a part of the County of Ferns—on condition of being allowed to live there whenever he liked, and to receive "a moiety of the rents, services, and customs, as well of fish as of timber, accruing to the said Earl as well in his said town of Arklow as in its port," with certain reservations. In reference to this document, it is worthy of remark that King Murtogh appended to it the self-same seal of his grandfather, Donald *Reagh*, which had been used in subscribing to the charter of Duiske Abbey, on April 3rd, 1475. Moreover, Sir Piers Butler was the maternal grandson of Donald *Reagh*. This deed makes reference to the "black rent" of eighty marks annually, "which the said Murtogh, or Maurice, was wont to receive from the Crown of England through the Royal Exchequer in Ireland," and was witnessed by Gerald, Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy; the Seneschal and Justiciary of the County Wexford; Richard Power (afterwards Lord Power and Curraghmore); the Bishop of Ferns; the Guardian and Brethren of the Convent of Enniscorthy; the MacDavys, O'Murchoes, and Donald O'Murraghoo, &c.

Sir Piers Butler, with whom King Murty made the above agreement, was, on February 23rd, 1528, created Earl of Ossory, as a *solatium* for having relinquished the Earldom of Ormonde in favour of Sir Thomas Boleyn. It is only pertinent to the present work to add that in

August, 1528, King Henry VIII. intimated to this Sir Thomas Boleyn that he would marry "Mistress Anna" as soon as he could get divorced from Queen Catherine; and Boleyn was created Earl of Wiltshire, Ormonde and Carrick, on December 8th, 1529.

In 1530, Cahir MacInnycross, King of Leinster, took possession of Ferns Castle. From Ware we learn that, owing to some unexplained cause, John Purcell, Bishop of Ferns, who resided at Fethard Castle, "was taken prisoner and placed in the custody of the Marshal of the Exchequer on the 1st of September, 1531, but was released early in 1532." This was the preamble of the "Reformation" in County Wexford. On March 19th, 1535, Henry VIII. exercised his new prerogative, as "Head of the Church," by appointing George Browne, an ex-Augustinian Friar, as first Protestant Archbishop of Dublin; and a motley parliament, which was summoned at Dublin on May 1st, 1536, by Lord Leonard Grey, declared the King as vested in spiritual supremacy, also attainting the Irish estates (many of which were in County Wexford) of the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Berkeley, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Abbot of Furness, &c., which were then vested in the King. The first assignation of religious houses was also made to the Crown, comprising three hundred and seventy monasteries, including Dunbrody, Tintern, and Ferns—the yearly value of which was estimated at £32,000.

Cahir MacInnycross Kavanagh—the MacMurrough—who burned Ballymagir Castle on August 3rd, 1534, surrendered Ferns Castle to Lord Grey on July 14th, 1536, but he was left in possession as Constable, on payment of eighty marks Irish, Gerald Sutton being appointed Deputy Constable. A very interesting account of the capture of Ferns was sent, on July 17th, by Thomas Allen to the Secretary of State, which states that "the said castle is one of the ancientest and strongest castles within this land." From the State Papers we learn that on December 7th, 1537, James Sherlock was appointed "treasurer, general receiver, and bailiff," of County Wexford, "to hold during good behaviour." William Saintloo, as a reward for the capture of MacMurrough, was, on December 20th, 1537, given a lease for twenty-

one years of various lands in County Wexford, including Kilmannock, the Hook, Clonmines, Rosegarland, the Park and Ferry of Wexford, the Saltee Islands, the Rectory of Kilmore, Long Grange, &c.¹

On Saturday, January 4th, 1539, Archbishop Browne arrived at New Ross, where he preached on the following day; and on Sunday night he proceeded to Wexford, where, on the Feast of the Epiphany, "the Archbishop again preached, having a great audience." The aged Bishop Purcell died July 20th, 1539, whereupon Alexander Devereux, last pre-Reformation Abbot of Dunbrody, was schismatically consecrated for the see of Ferns, on December 14th, by the aforesaid Archbishop Browne.

In 1539 the Kavanaghs "wasted" the Fassagh of Bantry as far as Enniscorthy, and for a time regained some of their old territory, with the result that for four years they defied the English forces. Ferns Abbey was suppressed by royal commission dated April 7th, 1539; and on January 28th, 1541, Sir Edmund Butler made a raid on the city and castle of Ferns, from which he brought away great spoil. This Sir Edmund was created Baron of Dunboyne on June 11th, 1541, which ensured his loyalty for a time. A few months previously, namely, on February 15th, Edmund Duff was given a lease for twenty-one years of the Dominican Friary, Arklow (then regarded as part of North Wexford), at a rent of 20s.

James Sherlock, mentioned above, sent a survey of County Wexford to Secretary Cromwell (who was beheaded by the Royal Head of the Church on July 28th, 1540), on February 4th, 1540, with statistics proving that the revenue accruing to the Crown, in his department, amounted to £220 yearly. In the same report he waxes wrathful at

¹ This lease was altered on January 28th, 1539, to a grant "for life, by fealty only." However, St. Loo wrote to Secretary Cromwell stating that he had only twenty-five marks a year, and was unable to pay any rent for the County Wexford property. From a letter written on January 11th, 1540, by the Irish Privy Council to Cromwell, it is stated that "with difficulty they had persuaded the inhabitants of County Wexford to pay the King's Highness a yearly subsidy of one hundred marks."

the delinquencies of Deputy Seneschal Gerbard,¹ and of his soldiers in North Wexford. So powerful had Murtoagh Kavanagh, the cousin and successor of Cahir MacInnycross Kavanagh, become at this time, that a treaty was concluded between him and the Lord Deputy St. Leger, at New Ross, in 1543. Mr. Richard Butler was Constable of Ferns Castle from 1538 to 1558.

Between the years 1540 and 1544 numerous Irish titles were created; and rectories, monasteries, churches, and glebe lands, were promiscuously and lavishly bestowed on, or leased to, court favourites. Various presentations to benefices in the diocese of Ferns were conferred on laymen and infants; and John Parker, gent., got about twenty-four rectories in County Wexford. On February 3rd, 1544, John Travers, of Dublin, Master of the Ordnance, got a lease for twenty-one years of the Manor of Enniscorthy, the lands of St. John's Priory, near Enniscorthy, and the Rectory of Kilcarbery, at an annual rent of 43s. 4d. Next day this same individual, who was knighted in 1546, got a grant for ever in consideration of the sum of £41 of the Dominican Friary, Arklow, and the Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, with the appurtenances thereof, at an annual rent of 2s. 2d. and the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee. Some months later, namely, on August 20th, 1544, Henry Draycott was appointed treasurer, receiver, and bailiff of County Wexford, in succession to James Sherlock, "to hold for life, with a fee of £20, rendering the profits to the Exchequer." As a sort of stimulus, he was given on February 9th, 1545, a lease for twenty-one years of Ballygowan (Smithstown), Clearystown, and Norristown, County Wexford, at a yearly rent of 40s.

In 1544 the Kavanaghs were still masters of Enniscorthy; and on December 7th of that year there was a royal pardon extended to Donogh *Shillery*, *alias* Kavanagh, of Enniscorthy. In the following year a most unfortunate strife took place between Cahir (Charles) MacArt

¹ William Gerbard got a lease of Kilmore Grange, County Wexford, on July 13th, 1541; and in February, 1551, he got Ballyadam, with other lands, in Queen's County.

Kavanagh, of St. Mullins and Polmonty,¹ and Gerald MacCahir Kavanagh, of Garryhill, in regard to the tanistry rights, with the result that each lost over a hundred men in mortal combat, whereupon, by mutual agreement, Cahir MacArt was formally recognised as head of the clan MacMurrough, in succession to Murtogh, son of Art Boy.

On the death of William Saintloo, on January 9th, 1546, John Brereton, who is described as captain of one hundred and fifty men, was appointed Seneschal of County Wexford; and he was given the Constablership of Wexford Castle on March 13th, 1547. From the Irish Annals we learn the death of Murtogh MacMurrough, the son of Art Boy, of Ferns, in 1547.

Henry VIII. died January 28th, 1547, and Edward VI. was crowned on February 20th, St. Leger being continued as Viceroy. From the State Papers we find that on November 16th, 1548, John Isham was given the Seneschalship of County Wexford, *vice* John Brereton. It is certain that Sir John Travers never entered into possession of Enniscorthy, but he was consoled with other lands in 1547 and 1548. In fact, all the grants in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy, made between the years 1540 and 1548, were not worth the paper they were written on, owing to the influence of the Kavanaghs. The famous Art Boy Kavanagh, of Ferns, was slain by Nicholas Heron in 1549, and from that period the clan MacMurrough were practically doomed. However, Cahir MacArt regained possession of Ferns Castle, but was proclaimed a traitor on March 26th, 1550. Sir William Brabazon, Lord Justice, having got £8,000, and was aided by four hundred men (who came over after the surrender of Boulogne), invaded North Wexford in June of the same year. We read that

¹ Polmonty Castle is associated with the memory of Ellen Kavanagh, whose romantic marriage to the bard O'Daly is the origin of the exquisite song, *Aileen Aroon*. Her tomb is still to be seen in the old churchyard of Kilmyshal, near Newtownbarry, County Wexford. The incident dates from the fourteenth century, and in the song occurs the famous phrase, *Cead Mile Failte*. Most readers are acquainted with the adapted version, *Roivín Adair*, which dates from 1750, and was written by St. John Leger.

he devastated the surrounding country, and killed several of Cahir MacArt's followers, though the men of the Duffrey made a good fight.

On January 25th, 1549, Walter Cowley, Surveyor General of Ireland, wrote to Sir Edward Bellingham, Lord Deputy, informing him that some followers of the Kavanaghs had made a raid on Corbally,¹ near Enniscorthy, and stolen some cattle belonging to William MacShane *Mantagh*. Bellingham was succeeded by Sir Francis Bryan, who died February 2nd, 1550, whereupon Sir William Brabazon was made Lord Justice. Cahir MacArt now made a feigned submission to the Crown, and publicly renounced his title as "the MacMurrough" on November 4th, 1550, in presence of the new Lord Deputy, Sir Anthony St. Leger.

Sir Richard Butler, Constable of Ferns Castle, in order to stimulate his loyalty, and to alienate him from the Kavanaghs, was, on October 23rd, 1550, created Viscount of Mountgarret. As Enniscorthy had lapsed to the Crown, there were numerous applicants for the lease of it, or portion of same; and, on November 10th, 1551, we find a very modest letter in the State Papers from Richard Keating, who petitioned for the Castle of Ferns and the Manor of Enniscorthy, with the Castle and Friary "thrown in," so to speak. Neither request was complied with.

Among the royal pardons issued on November 6th, 1550, I find those of Donald O'Murchoe, or O'Murphy, "captain of his nation," *i.e.*, chieftain of the O'Murphys of Castle Ellis (better known among the Celtic race as Lord of Hy Felimy), his sons Arthur, Eugene, Maurice, Donagh, Felim, Cornelius, and Charles; also Father Edmund Lacy, Dermot O'Lacy, Eugene Lacy, and others. On February 13th, 1551, Patrick Browne, of Forest, son of Sir Walter Browne, of Mulrankin, was pardoned. Sir James Crofts arrived as Lord Deputy in May, 1551; and on July 21st he appointed James Barnewall, of Breemore, as Justice of the Liberty of Wexford. Some months afterwards, Sir Nicholas Bagnall, Marshal of the army, was sent against MacMurrough to

¹ The present bridge of Corbally, about three miles from Enniscorthy, is the highest in County Wexford.

County Wexford, but, though a battle was fought, no success was gained on either side.

From the *Calendar of the Patent Rolls* we learn that the schismatic Rector of Templeshanbo (which was the old parish within which Enniscorthy was comprised previous to the formation of St. Mary's), William O'Farrell, received a grant of English liberty on October 31st, 1551. Seven weeks later, namely, on December 24th, John Isham, Seneschal of County Wexford, got a lease of a castle and lands in Newcastle, in the barony of Rosegarland; the sixth part of Monart, near Enniscorthy, the sixth of the fourth part of Curraghgraigne in the Duffrey, formerly belonging to Cahir *Duff* O'Byrne, attainted, and Rathton, parcel of the possessions of Nicholas Keating, same county, to hold for twenty-one years, at a rent of 37s. The grand Augustinian Abbey of Ferns, untenanted since 1538, was leased to David Power, of Rathcoole, in the summer of 1552, the *fiant* for which was signed by Sir James Crofts, Lord Deputy, who sailed from Howth on December 4th, 1552. According to the terms of the lease he was to have the abbey, with its vast possessions, at the "ridiculously small" sum of 40s. a year for the first six years, "in consideration of the premises lying among the Kavanaghs."

On February 13th, 1552, a lease was granted to Gabriel Blake, "of the Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, with a water mill and other appurtenances adjoining; the Manor of Enniscorthy, a ruined castle and land in the same, an old weir and land in Garrane," land in various adjoining townlands, and the customs of the fair there; the "fourth part of Deinge, the sixth of the fourth part of Kilmollock, and messuages and lands in Garrynisk, near Enniscorthy, in O'Murchoes country, late Donal O'Murchoe's, attainted; eighty nobles at Michaelmas, and fifty-seven and a-half at Easter, at the rate of 6s. a noble, and certain customs called summer sheep, and custom oats, in the country of the O'Murchoes." All this property was granted, "to hold for twenty-one years, at a rent of £55 17s.," but the worthy man was not permitted by the Kavanaghs to enter on possession of the monastery and lands granted to the Friars Minor by King Donald *Fuscus*, and so he was given, on August 22nd, 1552, the wardship of Edward Brabazon, of Thomas Court, Dublin.

During the year 1552, Viscount Mountgarret, of Ferns Castle, obtained large grants of rectories, castles, and church lands in County Wexford, including Old Ross, New Ross Ferry, Power's Mill, the Forest of Bantry, the rectories of Arklow and Ballycanew, the castles of Deeps and Castlesow, the lands of St. John's, adjoining Enniscorthy, the rectory of Kilcarbery, &c., "to hold for twenty-one years, from 1558 and 1563 respectively." But, as before stated, these grants were so much stage thunder; and the year 1553 found Cahir MacArt Kavanagh Lord of Enniscorthy,¹ with the Friars still in possession of their old convent, and St. John's undisturbed, whilst Father Gerald Busher was Rector of Edermine, a valuable prebend in the diocese of Ferns.

Sir Thomas Cusack and Sir Gerald Aylmer were appointed Lords Justices of Ireland on December 6th, 1552, and continued in office for ten months; Nicholas Synnott, of Farrellstown, being Sheriff of the Liberty of Wexford. Edward VI. died July 6th, 1553, and was succeeded by Queen Mary, who sent over Sir Anthony St. Leger as Viceroy. This time-server was now as eager in re-establishing the ancient religion (ordered by the Queen in October), as he had been in carrying out the views of Edward VI., and he was sworn into office in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on November 19th. On the following day, November 20th, Thomas Russell, of Sutton, County Dublin, was appointed Clerk of the Crown and Peace for County Wexford; and on January 26th, 1554, Francis Agard, of Monasterevan, was given the Seneschalship of the county and the Constablenesship of Wexford Castle, "to hold during pleasure, with a fee of £20 as Seneschal, and £5 as Constable."

As a means of conciliating Cahir MacArt Kavanagh, Queen Mary, on February 8th, 1554, created him Baron of Ballyanne (near New Ross), for life, "with the office of captain over his kinsmen, and all others in the countries of Macamore, Edmund Duff, MacVaddock, and the Duffrey,

¹ On November 6th, 1550, a pardon was granted to Cahir MacArt, with his brothers Gerald and Maurice, also to Dermot, Terence, Bernard, Arthur, and Donogh, sons of Cahir MacArt.

except the manors and territories of Enniscorthy, Ferns, Glascarrig, and O'Murchoe's country, and Idrone to the north of Glenmalure; and the profits of these parts, and twenty-four kern upon the countries for himself, and twelve for his brother Maurus or Murrough Kavanagh, who after him should attain the degree of Baron of Cowellelyn, and succeed to the captaincy."

On November 27th, 1554, John Travers was granted the office of Justice of the Liberties of the County Wexford, resigned by James Barnewall of Bremore, with the usual fees, but he was almost immediately succeeded by Richard Talbot of Templeoge. In the same year Bishop Devereux of Ferns, who resided at Kilhile Castle, was rehabilitated by Primate Dowdall of Armagh, and Bishop Walshe of Meath, acting for Cardinal Pole.

Cahir MacArt, the valiant Baron of Ballyanne, died in February, 1556, and on May 17th of the same year the Queen granted a new patent to his brother Murrough as Baron of Cowellelyn, with the twenty-four kerns and the office of captain of his clan; also appointing Dermot MacCahir, son of the deceased Baron of Ballyanne, "to be Tanist for the office of captain, and to have the twelve kerns which Murrough had in the lifetime of the late baron."

Parliament met on June 1st, 1556, when the old religion was formally restored; and a prorogued parliament assembled at Limerick on November 10th, 1557. Meantime, Philip Isham, Seneschal of County Wexford, on payment of two hundred marks to Francis Agard, was, on August 28th, 1556, given a lease for twenty-one years of the Manors of Kilcowan and Rosegarland. In 1557 the Earl of Sussex, Viceroy of Ireland, commenced vigorous measures against some of the Leinster septs. In this year our ancient annalists tell us that Murrough MacMurrough Kavanagh "was invited to dine at Leighlin Bridge Castle by the captain of the soldiery stationed in Leighlin, *and was treacherously murdered after dinner.*" The captain of the soldiery at Leighlin Bridge was Nicholas Heron, who received a royal pardon on November 30th of the same year.

Under date of December 3rd, 1557, in the *fiants* of

Philip and Mary, we find a commission appointed for County Wexford, consisting of Bishop Devereux, the Mayors of Wexford and New Ross, the Seneschal of Wexford, the Dean of Ferns, Sir Christopher Cheevers, and Sir Nicholas Devereux, "to enquire of all chalices, ornaments, bells, houses, and lands belonging to parish churches and chapels in the Borough and County of Wexford, and in whose hands they now are, and to return their inquisition into chancery."

Sir Henry Sydney was appointed Lord Justice on February 6th, 1558; and, on February 27th, John Sinnott was given the Justiceship of the Liberty of Wexford, *vice* Richard Talbot promoted to be second justice of the Common Bench. About this time a further iniquity was heaped on the clan Kavanagh, by the execution at Leighlin Bridge of Maurice Kavanagh and Conall O'More. The Lord Justice was superseded in April by Sussex; and, on September 13th, Nicholas Heron, above mentioned, got a lease for twenty-one years of "the castle, city, and lands of Ferns, the lands of Ballymackshane, Ballyrannell, and Ballyandrew; and all customs accustomed to be answered to the castle of Ferns, of the countries called Edmund Duff's country, MacVaddock, Macamore, and the Duffrey"—at a rent of £10.

ELIZABETHAN ENNISCORTHY.



QUEEN Mary died November 17th, 1558, and Sussex was superseded as Viceroy of Ireland on December 13th by Sir Henry Sydney. On January 24th, 1559, Matthew Hay, of Tacumsham, was appointed Sheriff of County Wexford; and the Earl of Sussex was sworn in Lord Deputy on August 30th, 1559, but was replaced on February 15th, 1560, by Sir William FitzWilliams. The first Irish (?) Parliament of Queen Elizabeth was opened on January 11th, 1560, to which only seventy-six minions of the Crown were invited. Ulster and Connaught were virtually unrepresented, whilst Munster showed only an attendance of sixteen. Six members were returned from the County Wexford, including William Hore, of Harpers-town, and Richard Sinnott, of Ballybrennan. Although so well packed, yet, as Ware tells us, many of the measures were strongly opposed, and in consequence Parliament was dissolved in February. In 1563, the Earl of Essex published an edict against the Catholic clergy; and attendance at Protestant services was enjoined on all heads of families. This Viceroy was recalled finally in May, 1564.

The village of *Forge*, on the Urrin, about three miles from Enniscorthy, was established at this time, and in 1565 was the property of Colonel Robert Phayre. It was so called from an extensive *forge* or iron works at this place, and was principally utilized for the manufacture of sword blades. It appears that the ore was imported from England; and the adjoining woods of Killoughram Forest supplied the charcoal. Even long before this period, as Sir Robert Kane writes, "Ireland was sprinkled over with small iron works in which the wood charcoal was employed, and thus iron manufactured of excellent quality." Of course, "the vast quantity of wood consumed to make

charcoal for the iron works gradually stripped the country of its forests."¹

Alexander Devereux, Bishop of Ferns, died in July, 1566, at Fethard, and was buried in the chancel of the church there. He was succeeded by his relative (some say nephew) John, first Protestant Bishop, who was appointed to the vacancy on October 12th of the same year, and took up his residence in Adamstown Castle, which had been rebuilt by his father, Sir Nicholas Devereux, in 1556.

On April 3rd, 1566, Nicholas Heron was appointed Constable of the castles of Leighlin and Ferns, who in 1568 was replaced by the famous adventurer, Thomas Stukeley, Seneschal of Wexford. This man Stukeley was dismissed from the triple position by Queen's letter, dated November 4th, 1568, and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Heron, upon whose decease, in December, Nicholas White was given the Seneschalship, whilst Sir Peter Carew got the Constablership of Leighlin. Stukeley resided in Enniscorthy from 1568 to 1569, when he joined in the "rebellion" of Sir James FitzMaurice and Sir Edmund Butler.

Enniscorthy had been celebrated for its fairs from the early portion of the sixteenth century, but between the years 1559 and 1569 the "great fair" of August 15th attracted buyers and sellers from all parts of Ireland. It may be interesting to give some of the current prices. Fat beeves sold for 10s. each; a good sow, 3s.; cattle only fetched 6s. 8d. each; whilst sheep were rated at 8d. Shoes were about 7d. per pair, and blankets 5s. a pair; copper pots, 40s.; linen thread, 16d. a pound; butter, 5s. a gallon; wool, 8d. a pound, and so on.² The Butlers now bethought of a splendid "haul" on the occasion of the fair; and on August 14th, 1569, being the eve of the "grand bazaar," they mustered their forces and besieged Enniscorthy. The *Four Masters* give the entry as follows:

¹ At this date there was very little iron produced in England. It was not till 1621 that Dud Dudley utilized sea and pit coal for smelting iron.

² Harvesters were paid at the rate of from 1s. 6d. to 2s. for every acre cut and made into sheaves—*vulgo*, "stooking."

“Edmond and Edward Butler went to the fair of *Inis Corr* on Great Lady-day; and it would be difficult to enumerate or describe all the steeds, horses, gold, silver, and foreign wares they seized upon at that fair.”

Francis Agard, who was military governor of North Wexford, and a member of the Privy Council, wrote a long letter to the Lord Chancellor, describing the capture of Enniscorthy. “The Queen’s treasure was seized, the castle sacked and plundered, and the inhabitants abandoned to the license of the soldiers.” The Earl of Ormonde, who landed at Rosslare, on August 14th, was horrified when he heard, two days later, of the terrible depredations committed by his brother, Sir Edmund. In October, Francis Agard sent a graphic account of the spoils made by Sir Edmund and his followers at Ferns and Arklow at the end of August, and requested aid, as he had “but five or six gunners in his castle of Newcastle MacKinegan.” After a long parleying, Sir Edmund and Piers Butler submitted to the Crown, at Dublin, February 28th, 1570.

On January 24th, 1570, Nicholas White, Master of the Rolls, wrote to the Privy Council that at last County Wexford was in a peaceful condition, “and within three weeks the clan Kavanagh, the Macamore, and MacVaddocks, had made a feigned submission to Sir Henry Sydney.” On March 15th, Bryan MacCahir Kavanagh consented to give up the manors, castles, lands, &c., in Ballian, St. Mullins, and other places, “on condition that he was to be restored all such property by royal letters patent, and to pay an annual rent of fifty-two marks to the Crown.” On June 26th, Phelim MacDamore, as chieftain of the clan Macamore, made a similar surrender of his lands in North Wexford, receiving them back by letters patent. He was to pay “a yearly rent-charge of eighty marks from Michaelmas, 1571, also to the farmer and constable of the Queen’s Castle of Ferns, thirteen fat martes (beeves), and thirteen good sheep, between the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and All Saints, and thirteen pecks of oats of Wexford measure, between the Feast of All Saints and the Annunciation of Our Lady, yearly, together with the finding of meat and drink to thirteen kerne and six

boys, such as shall be appointed by the Constable of the Castle of Ferns for defence of the country," &c. On the same day (June 26th) an indenture was drawn up between Sir Henry Sydney and Theobald MacMorris MacVaddock, as chief of the clan MacVaddock, on the same lines as the preceding, with a rent-charge of forty marks.

The average reader will understand that these indentures were all obtained under compulsion, just as when compliance is obtained to certain articles by a robber with a pistol at one's head, and so it is not to be wondered at that, early in 1572, the Kavanaghs again "went into rebellion," allying themselves with the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles. On May 6th, 1572, the new allies, aided by Matthew Furlong, "the head of the Furlongs," attacked Mulrankin, County Wexford, and killed over thirty magnates of the county, including Robert Browne, Lord of Mulrankin, and Philip, son of Sir Nicholas Devereux, of Ballymagir. They also carried off a large number of cattle. It was owing to this incident, and to their "defection" to the Irish side, that the Furlongs were afterwards dubbed by the Wexford colonists as "False Furlongs;" and on September 13th, 1574, they were proclaimed "malefactors" by the Government.

Meantime, on May 15th, 1571, Nicholas White, Seneschal of County Wexford, as a slight souvenir of his services, petitioned Lord Burleigh for the Franciscan Friary of Enniscorthy, but his request was unheeded. On December 13th, Richard Lukar was commissioned to execute martial law in County Wexford. About this time, Cahir *Ruadh* Kavanagh, "of Garryhill," went into rebellion, and lived as a princely freebooter for years, residing principally at his fortress in the mountainous region below Scollagh Pass, seven miles from Enniscorthy. Many are the weird legends told of "Cahir Ruadh's Den," which may still be seen, and tradition has it that Cahir was wont to make periodical raids on Enniscorthy and the surrounding villages. He was a great adept at "cattle lifting," and brought his spoils to his "den," but at length was tracked by a neighbour, whose daughter he had carried off, and killed at the mouth of his cave.

From 1571 to 1573, Captains Hungerford and Wingfield,

Lieutenant Parker, and Mr. Francis Agard,¹ were the principal officers in command of the Leinster troops, and, from the *Calendar of State Papers*, we glean the following items as recorded by the sergeant-major of the County Wicklow forces: "May, 1572.—Burning of sixteen towns in Cossher and Shillelagh. Divers killed in Imaile. Two of Feagh MacHugh's foster-brothers and two sisters slain in Glanlacken, on the further side of the river Avonagh. Have taken Simon MacDavid's sister, whom, if she do not stand to me instead, I mean to execute." This diary speaks for itself. As of local interest, it may be added that the O'Tooles had a large property near Enniscorthy, which they held till the first half of the present century. A commission was issued on July 17th, 1572, to Viscount Mountgarret, Bishop Devereux, Nicholas White, Sir Christopher Cheevers, Justice Dillon, Sir Nicholas Devereux, and others, to take the muster or array of County Wexford.

To add to the existing evils of this period, a dreadful famine raged throughout the greater part of Ireland in 1575, and the Lord Deputy FitzWilliams was recalled early in September of that year, being replaced by Sir Henry Sydney. From official records, we learn that Richard Synnott, of Ballybrennan, was Sheriff of County Wexford for the year 1576; and on October 25th of the same year, Sir Nicholas Devereux, of Ballymagir, died. At the opening of the year 1577, the condition of County Wexford is described as being truly wretched and desolate. By commission of June 20th, 1577, Bryan MacCahir MacArt Kavanagh (who with ninety-one of his kinsfolk had been pardoned a short time previously) was empowered to execute martial law in the baronies of St. Mullins, Ballian, and Monksland, in County Wexford, upon his own people.

By commission dated from Dublin, on March 22nd, 1577, the County Wicklow was formed, as hitherto the district above Coolgreamy, as far as Arklow, was regarded as

¹ Francis Agard, of Grangegorman, who held various positions, including the Constablenesship of Wexford Castle, died in 1577, and was buried in Christ Church, Dublin, where his tomb is still to be seen.

portion of County Wexford. Sir Henry Sydney visited New Ross and Enniscorthy about this time, and was anxious to have Sir William Drury installed in the Presidency of Munster at Wexford, but was summoned to Connaught. At this date, Nicholas Rochford was parson of St. Mary's Church, Wexford; and Richard Masterson had the rectories of Clongeen and Kilcowan, formerly held by James Barnewall, of Bremore.

Among the pardons issued on May 28th, 1577, the names appear of numerous Kavanaghs and O'Doyles, Gerald Sutton of Ballykeerogue, Patrick Sutton of Ballygarvey, Roland Barron, and others in County Wexford. A *fiant* was issued on November 7th of the same year, granting to the Earl of Ormonde certain customs from the Duffrey, County Wexford, with all the Queen's profits from that country, at a rent of £3 6s. 8d. On November 16th, a commission was given to Matthew FitzHarris to execute martial law in County Wexford; and, on February 6th following, a similar commission was given to Nicholas Devereux. The Earl of Ormonde, for further encouragement was, on November 26th, 1577, given a grant for ever of the ferry of Wexford, the ferry of Ross, with other lands, at a rental of £7 6s. 4d. It would appear that at this time the Furlongs were anxious to become loyal subjects again, and so on April 24th, 1578, pardon was extended to John Furlong of Carrigmenan, Philip Furlong, various other members of the Furlong family, and Nicholas FitzRichard FitzHenry of Ballyhogue, "provided that in future they bear themselves lawfully." A similar pardon was extended to Lawrence FitzHarris of Macmine on August 15th.

Thomas Masterson of Ferns was, on May 8th, 1578, given a lease of Ferns Abbey, with all its possessions, to hold for twenty-one years, at a rent of £12 7s. 10d., part in corn. For the same he had to pay a fine of £10, and he was bound to maintain one English horseman. Henceforward Ferns declined. Bishop Devereux, the first Protestant Bishop (whose brother was Archdeacon of Ferns), died in 1578, and was buried in the parish church of St. Mary, Wexford. On July 31st, William Pratt got a patent "for the right of next presentation of one or more

fit clerks to the rectories of Tomhaggard and Killaloe (Kerlogue), and the vicarages of Kilturk and Kilmore," all in the County Wexford and diocese of Ferns. About this time ancient Bunclody disappeared. This beautiful tract of country in County Wexford, within easy drive of Enniscorthy, was acquired by Alderman James Barry, Sheriff of Dublin, who changed its name to the less picturesque one of Newtownbarry.

Sir Henry Sydney, utterly weary of the government of Ireland, begged to be recalled; and, on September 14th, Sir William Drury was sworn in Lord Justice. To Sydney's credit, be it said, that, "though four times Lord Justice, and three times Lord Deputy, he never appropriated to his own use an inch of land in the country." Drury was the reverse of Sydney, and was a most grasping tyrant. He appointed Edward Ragged, of New Ross, as Clerk of the Crown and Peace for the County Wexford (on the recommendation of Henry Davells), on April 16th, 1579.

ENNISCORTHY, 1579—1639.



EARLY in August, Sir William Drury marched towards Munster at the head of four hundred foot and two hundred horse, and among the officers was Thomas Masterson, of Ferns. During the second week of September, the Deputy was defeated by Sir John of Desmond, and retired to Waterford, where he died on September 30th, and was succeeded by Sir William Pelham, who was sworn in Lord Justice on October 11th. Thomas Masterson was Seneschal of County Wexford in 1579, and under date of that year the *Four Masters* have the following entry :

“The Seneschal of the *Contae Riabhach* (County Wexford), invited Feah MacHugh (O’Byrne) of Glenmalure, to a treacherous conference, but Feagh having received intelligence that the Seneschal had appointed this conference for a treacherous purpose, he laid another snare for his adversary (Masterson), and slew one hundred of the youths and chieftains of the *Contae Riabhach* on that occasion, besides several of the common sort of people.”

Sir Henry Wallop now enters on the scene, and on October 18th, 1579, he wrote to Walsingham to the effect that the Earl of Desmond’s son (young **Prince** James FitzGerald, then *eight* years old) might be executed as an example of disloyalty !!! On November 28th, he sent one hundred English soldiers, called “redcoats,” to Enniscorthy, to protect it from the attacks of the Irish, principally from the Kavanaghs, Murphys, and their allies, but especially *Cahir Ruadh*. For the ensuing ten years County Wexford was wasted by fire and sword, and on February 16th, 1580, Richard Sinnott of Ballybrennan, and Anthony Peppard of Glascarrig, were commissioned to execute martial law in the counties of Wexford and Ferns, with whom was joined William Browne of Mulrankin, on

March 8th. Sir William Pelham held the Leinster Assizes, at Wexford, about this time, and then proceeded to Waterford.

On April 24th, 1580, Thomas Masterson made an attack on the clan Kavanagh, and killed forty of them. He was dismissed from the Seneschalship on June 8th; and on the 1st of July, the Kavanaghs, aided by the O'Byrnes, under the command of Feagh MacHugh, attacked Ferns, taking off considerable booty from the Constable of the Castle (Masterson), also burning the Cathedral. On August 25th, Lord Grey de Wilton, Lord Deputy, in command of the Leinster troops, attacked Feagh MacHugh and Viscount Baltinglass (James Eustace) at Glenmalure, but he was utterly routed with the loss of eight hundred soldiers, including Sir Peter Carew, Colonel Moore, Captains Audley and Cosby—the last-named being a fiendish bigot. Some months later, namely, on December 9th, Captain Agarde was despatched to County Wexford with three hundred men; and early in 1581 Walter *Galde* Kavanagh was hanged.

William Bowen was appointed Provost Marshal of Leinster, on January 28th, 1581 (with a fee of 2s. 3d. a day, and the leading of ten horsemen); and in March was commissioned to execute martial law in that province. We find a very urgent letter, written by Sir Anthony Colclough¹ of Tintern Abbey, dated Enniscorthy, July 3rd, 1581, to Sir Henry Wallop, Vice-Treasurer, complaining that “Art *Boy* Kavanagh’s sept will not give their pledges as they promised, and that, therefore, some steps should be taken for the defence of the town.”

Ever since the raid of the Butlers on the town of Enniscorthy in 1569, there was continual strife; and now, in August, 1581, it had become a mere hamlet, with the Castle getting ruinous, as also the Friary. The power of the Kavanaghs was sapped, and accordingly the place was looked on as a rather desirable investment for a man able to defend his rights. There now enters on the scene no

¹ In February, 1582, Sir Anthony Colclough was appointed Captain of the new fort of St. Mullins, which had been built “to command the river Barrow, and protect the trade of Ross from the Irish.”

mailed warrior or doughty knight, but, of all men else, a poet. Edmund Spenser, yclept the "gentle Spenser" (Secretary to Lord Grey), who was present at the Smerwick massacre, November 11th, 1580, and had been granted the position of Clerk in Chancery, on March 22nd, 1581, cast a hungry eye as "undertaker" (what a gruesome word) for Enniscorthy. Accordingly, on December 6th, 1581, this young man was given a lease for twenty-one years of "the Franciscan Friary, with its possessions; the manor of Enniscorthy, a ruinous castle, land, and a weir there; lands of Garrane, Kilcannon, Loughwertie, Barricrow [Barra-curra] and Ballinaparka, and the customs of boards, timber, laths, boats bearing victuals, lodges during the fair [tents or booths], and things sold there, and fishings belonging to the manor, and all other appurtenances, as well within the Murroes country as without," at a rent of £13 6s. 4d., with a fine of 20s., and a provision to maintain one English horseman.

Now it so happened that on the self-same day, a *fiant* had been issued to Richard Sinnott of Ballybrennan, of certain lands in the country of the O'Murchoes, not far from Enniscorthy, the property of Donnell O'Murchoe, attainted; and so on December 9th, the wily clerk conveyed the Enniscorthy property, for a small consideration, to the worthy Sinnott, an old and tried warrior, and a County Wexford man to boot. On the same day, too, the veteran Thomas Masterson of Ferns, Seneschal of County Wexford, got a lease of the manor and castle of Clohamon, with numerous townlands; and the site of the Abbey of Downe, or Abbeydown, near Clonegal. I dwell on these grants, simply because a silly legend has it that Edmund Spenser¹ absolutely wrote the *Faerie Queen* in the castle of Enniscorthy; whereas, as a matter of fact, he never saw the place, or at least, he never lived in it.

¹ Edmund Spenser, on June 22nd, 1588, was appointed Clerk of the Council of Munster, and on October 26th, 1590, he got a grant of Kilcoleman, County Cork. In June, 1594, he married an Irish peasant girl named Elizabeth, by whom he had three sons, Sylvanus, Laurence, and Peregrine. The *Faerie Queen* was not written till 1588, and was only published on December 1st, 1589, which quite disposes of the fiction of its having been written in Enniscorthy Castle.

Among the pardons issued on May 18th, 1582, appear the names of Fergananim MacMortagh of Enniscorthy, Turlogh O'Kelly, Maurice O'Bolger, and others of the same place, at the suit of Thomas Masterson; and on May 19th, Donal *Spaniah* MacDonogh MacCahir Kavanagh of Clonmullen, Cahir *Carragh* MacDonogh, Criffan MacGerald MacCahir, Morrogh MacEdmund Kavanagh of Ballinabarna, and others, were pardoned; as was also Eff *ballagh* MacMurty of Coolnaboy on May 22nd. On June 13th, Sir Henry Wallop was appointed Treasurer at War for Ireland, and shortly afterwards he immortalized himself by hanging three Franciscan Friars at Enniscorthy. On August 24th, 1582, the poet Spenser was granted a lease for twenty-one years of New Abbey, County Kildare, "also an old waste town adjoining," at the low rent of £3, but he did not immediately enter into possession, as his master, Lord Grey, was recalled on August 25th, whereupon Adam Loftus, Archbishop of Dublin, and Sir Henry Wallop, were appointed Lords Justices.

After a vacancy of nearly sixteen years, Peter Power, or de la Poer, a relative of Lord Power, was "provided" by the Holy See as Bishop of Ferns, on April 27th, 1582. The diocese was in a truly sad condition, and the greater part of the religious property was sequestrated.¹ Notwithstanding this, further alienations went on; and on August 26th, 1582, our oft-quoted friend, Richard Sinnott, of Ballybrennan, was leased the rectories of Selskar, St. Peters, St. Tullocks, Carrick, Killian, Kilmachree, Ishartmon, St. Iberius, St. Margaret's, Ballylennan, Killurin, Ballinaslaney, Ardcolm, Ardkevan, Tikillin, Castlesow—all near Wexford—also the rectories of Kilmollock, Killusk, St. Nicholas, Ballyvaldon, Killily, and Screen, near Enniscorthy, to hold for twenty-one years at a rent of £101 13s. 4d., part in corn. This gentleman, who is described by the late Viceroy as "a man of good birth, living and credit," got a lease of the Manor of Rosegarland, with other possessions, on December 3rd, "*in consideration of*

¹ Hugh Allen, Protestant Bishop of Down and Connor, was translated to Ferns on May 24th, 1582.

his having received no benefit of the premises during the last wars;" and on the same day he got a ratification of the lease, which he had arranged for with Edmund Spenser, regarding the Manor and Friary, Castle, Ferry, &c., of Enniscorthy, as fully described above. Some time previously Anthony Colclough, of Tintern, was made a knight.

On April 24th, 1583, various members of the clan Kavanagh were pardoned, including Dowlin MacBryan Kavanagh, Bryan MacDonnell MacDonogh, and Cahir MacBryan. At this period, Edmund Spenser, "the poet," to whom Enniscorthy had been formerly leased, lived at the Friary, County Kildare, better known as New Abbey. Some time afterwards Donogh Kavanagh, the real owner of Enniscorthy, was executed, leaving a son Donal *Spaniah*. About the same time Sir William Stanley and Russel made another slaughter of the Kavanaghs at Ferns; and, on October 16th, Thomas Masterson was appointed Constable of Ferns Castle, "with an allowance of 8d. a day each for ten warders." This same Masterson, Seneschal of the County and Liberty of Wexford, on November 18th, was granted a lease of the Castle and Manor of Ferns, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, to hold for thirty years, from the end of his present interest, at a rent of £10, "in consideration of his good service, and to encourage his sons to continue in their father's steps." Two days later he was leased the Abbey of Ferns, with all its possessions, as before chronicled, and other lands, "to hold for sixty years, from the end of his present interest," at a total rent of £16 1s. 2d., part in corn. On the same day he had a renewal lease of Clohamon and Abbey Down; and, on November 25th, he received a commission to execute martial law in County Wexford. Finally, he was confirmed in all these grants on December 10th, and was also given the Constablenesship of the Castle of Wexford, with a fee of £5 yearly.

Among the pardons issued on February 19th, 1584, appear the names of Peter Sinnott of Boolaboy, John Esmonde of Ballinesker, Donal O'Murchoe MacArt ne Killy of Monboy, Edmund *gearr* MacOwen of Garrynisk, Philip Roche FitzRobert of Brownescastle, James FitzPiers Sinnott of Oulart, Peter Esmonde of Moneymore, Robert

FitzPhilip Roche of Brownescastle, John FitzPiers Sinnott of Ballingale, Gerald O'Murchoe MacArt ne Killy of Sraughmore, Ulick FitzPhilip Roche of Brownescastle, William O'Dempsey of Ferns, Gerald MacDavid Furlong of Oulart—all in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy. On the 5th of March, Thomas Roche, Lord of Drinagh, and of the Castle of the Deeps, near Killurin, was pardoned, as were also Nicholas and John Hore of Ballyshelan; and, on June 10th, our old friend Richard Sinnott of Ballybrennan, Murty O'Murphy, and others, received a royal pardon.

Bishop Power of Ferns, in June, 1584, "was cast into a most loathsome dungeon," in Dublin, by the Lords Justices, "whence he was liberated in September, through the connivance of the jailer," and afterwards escaped to the continent. The Lords Justices, Loftus and Wallop, were superseded on June 21st by Sir John Perrot, a natural son of Henry VIII.; and, among the names of the commissioners appointed to take the array of the County Kildare, on July 4th, was Edmund Spenser, the poet, of New Abbey, living as a county gentleman.¹

The Leinster Assizes of the year 1584 give a tolerable idea of the state of County Wexford. From the returns of the county it appears that there were altogether one hundred and eighty-one prisoners tried, of which number forty-eight were executed, "and of those there were two principal gentlemen of the Kavanaghs, by whose attainder Her Majesty is entitled to a country three miles long and three miles broad." On January 31st, 1585, William Browne of Mulrankin, Sheriff of County Wexford, was commissioned to execute martial law in that county, so that we can fairly conclude it was not then "reduced to peace;" and the Irish were still "around." As an incentive to loyalty, Donal *Spaniah* Kavanagh, Cahir Kavanagh, with others of the clan, were received into favour on April 19th.

¹Spenser published his *View of the State of Ireland* in 1596, in which he expresses the conviction that the Irish, if managed on his lines, "would quickly consume themselves and devour one another." On December 1st, 1589, New Abbey, the erstwhile residence of Spenser, was granted to Thomas Lambe.

Parliament assembled at Dublin on April 26th, 1585, at which only twenty-six towns were represented, and the members for County Wexford were Matthew FitzHenry and Robert Codd of Garrylough. It was prorogued on May 29th. In July, many of the O'Dorans of Kilpierce, Ballymore, Effernoge, Clonhaston, Ballyprickett, and Ballyorley, all in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy, received a royal pardon; and, on July 17th, George Dormer of New Ross, "learned in the law," was appointed Justice of the Liberty of County Wexford. On September 8th, Captain Thomas Lee was despatched with a large force to the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy to subdue Cahir *Ruadh* Kavanagh, but when he reached County Kilkenny he was repulsed by the Sheriff of that County, who had an old grudge against Lee. This fact bears out the statement made by Sir Henry Wallop some time previously in a communication to the Privy Council that "no two Englishmen that dwell within twenty miles of each other can agree together."

In Camden's *Hibernia*, the first edition of which was published in 1586, there is a folio map, in which the following place-names are put down to the credit of *Weisford Comitatus*:—Fethard, New Ross, Brownscastle, Wexford, Clonmines, Carrick, Ferns, Clohamon, and Arklow. Although this map is more or less fanciful, it shows at any rate that Brownscastle, Clohamon, and Clonmines, were places of importance at that time, and that Enniscorthy must have been only a hamlet.

Parliament met again in April, 1586, from the statutes of which we learn that there were one hundred and forty ancient proprietors of Munster deprived of their estates; and, on June 27th, we find a grand "advertisement" of their lands in favour of English "undertakers," to be divided respectively into "plots" of 12,000 acres, 8,000 acres, 6,000 acres, and 4,000 acres.

On July 30th, 1586, various pardons were issued, including those of Morrogh *Ruadh* MacDermot of Monglas, Edmund MacShane MacJames of Tintubber, Robert O'Brien of Templeshanbo, Pierce MacWilliam MacDonogh Finn of Rylendmore, Mortogh MacGerald of Ballinabarna, Dermot *Moel* MacOwen MacDermot of Ballypierce, Shane

O'Lennan of Monganfine, Hugh MacPhelim of Ballylucas, Teague O'Farrell of Templeshanbo, &c. On November 18th, Gerald MacMurty *oge* Kavanagh of Garryhill, his wife Johanna ny Murty, and her sister Sadh or Sabina, with some others, were received into favour; and, on December 6th, pardon was extended to Thomas Masterson of Ferns, Richard, Nicholas, John and Henry Masterson, Morrogh MacEdmund, Turlogh MacEnna MacVaddock, Nicholas *Duff* O'Bolger, and Richard MacHenry, all of Ferns. On February 7th, 1587, pardon was issued to George Isham of Brianstown, John FitzPierce Power, James MacShane Ennis of Cloghnageragh (Wilton), James Prendergast of Ballyfernock, Marcus FitzHarris of Ballintlea, with many others in County Wexford; and three days later Morgan MacBryan MacCahir Kavanagh, Sadh ny Ellen, his grandmother, Gerald MacArt *Ruadh* Kavanagh of Tinraney, with a few others, were similarly pardoned.

Robert Caddell was, on March 23rd, 1587, appointed to the office of chief sergeant of the counties of Wexford and Wicklow. Sir Henry Wallop,¹ was commissioned to execute martial law in the counties of Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow, and Waterford, on December 18th, 1587, having a short time previously purchased the Enniscorthy estates from Sir Richard Synnott of Ballybrennan, who found it inconvenient to retain possession of a property which was constantly exposed to the raids of the Kavanaghs.

On December 20th, 1587, Wallop got a lease for twenty-one years of the rectories of Selskar, St. Tulloch's, St. Peter's, Carrick, Killian, Kilmachree, Ishartmon, St. Ibar's, St. Margaret's, Ballylennane, Killurin, Ballynaslaney, Tikillen, Castlesowe, Kilmollock, Killisk, St. Nicholas, Ballyvaldon, Ardcolme, Ardkevan, Killily, and Screen, all in County Wexford, possessions of the dissolved Priory of Selskar (St. Sepulchre), at an annual rent of

¹ Sir Henry Wallop, on July 20th, 1585, was given a lease of the Trinitarian and Augustinian monasteries of Adare; the abbeys of Nenay and St. Katherine, County Limerick, with sundry lands and rectories in said County Limerick. Already he was Constable of Athlone, and had got a grant of the lordship of Athlone, on March 16th, 1584. He got a lease of the Franciscan Friary, Adare, with all the appurtenances thereof, on July 23rd, 1585.

£101 13s. 4d. Four days later he surrendered his County Limerick estates, which were then granted to Robert Collam of Dublin.

A Royal Commission was issued on January 16th, 1588, to Edmund, Viscount Mountgarret, Hugh Allen, Protestant Bishop of Ferns.¹ Sir Henry Wallop, Sir Thomas Williams, and others, "to take the muster and array of the inhabitants of the County Wexford." Wallop ambitioned to be Lord Deputy, but his hopes were not realized, as Sir William FitzWilliam was sworn in to that position on June 30th, 1588, in succession to Sir John Perrot.

The lands of Monart, near Enniscorthy, were granted for ever to Turlogh O'Byrne, on April 11th, 1590. On August 14th of the same year, Richard Masterson of Ferns was granted the office of Seneschal of County Wexford, and Constable of Wexford Castle; and Cahir *Ruadh* Kavanagh died at the close of the said year. A royal pardon was granted to Captain Thomas Lee, before mentioned, and Richard Mainwaring, on October 19th, 1591; and two days later, John Dallaway, ensign of the footmen under the command of Sir Henry Wallop, was also pardoned. Sir Richard Synnott of Ballybrennan (frequently eulogised in the State Papers) died at his manor of Rosegarland, September 9th, 1591. His brother Walter was sheriff of County Wexford for the year 1591, and was afterwards killed in an affray with the Irish near Enniscorthy. He was succeeded as sheriff, for the year 1592, by Nicholas Masterson.

Amongst the pardons issued on February 21st, 1593, I find the name of Donal *Spaniah* Kavanagh of Clonmullen. On September 3rd, 1593, Turlogh O'Byrne got a royal grant, which included some lands in the town of Wexford, and at Rossard, also, the *church of Rossdroit*, at a rent of 5s. 4d., and the *church of "Sacro Bosco,"* called Temple-scoby, at a rent of 13s. 4d., part of the possessions of the

¹ Hugh Allen alienated various lands of the already impoverished diocese of Ferns, including the manor of Fethard, County Wexford. He died in 1599 at Fethard Castle, and after his decease the Protestant see was united to that of Leighlin.

dissolved Nunnery of Timolin, County Kildare.¹ By indenture dated November 24th, 1593, "Andrew and James White, being then enfeoffed of the same," leased to Edward Eustace the Priory of St. John's, near Enniscorthy, and the townland of St. John aforesaid, and four hundred acres of land in Ballynacargin, Tomduff, Ballinperesagh (Ballinapierce), and Moneyhore, together with the rectories of Templethomas (Kilthomas, near Ferns), and Ballyhuskard, in the Murrowes (the country of the O'Murchoes or Murphys"), a property which afterwards lapsed to the Earl of Ormonde.

In 1594, Sir Walter Reagh FitzGerald, a son-in-law of the famous Feagh MacHugh O'Byrne, rose in rebellion for the second time, and defeated Dudley Bagenal (at Leighlin), who was slain in the encounter. Such was the terror of his name among the English of Leinster, that the Government were glad to conclude terms of peace with him. Unfortunately, he was killed early in 1595, during the Lord Deputyship of Sir William Russell. Wallop was sorely nettled over Russell's appointment (August 11th, 1594), and, to add to his discomfiture, various charges were laid to his account during the years 1592—1595, among others the severe indictment of Captain Thomas Lee, who averred that the Treasurer of Ireland was given "fifty foot soldiers at Enniscorthy, where there was no need for garrison." On June 2nd, 1595, Robert Bowen² was appointed Provost Marshal of the Province of Leinster;

¹ The Nunnery of Timolin, called *Timoling Beg*, to distinguish it from *Teach Moling* or St. Mullin's, was founded by Sir Robert FitzRichard de Valle in 1180. He died in 1185. Templescoby, or *de Sacro Bosco*—i.e., "the church of the wood," or Holywood, is about two miles from Enniscorthy, and Rossdroit is two miles farther on. Archdall absurdly supposed Templescoby to be dedicated to St. Buse (!) deceived by the Latin word *Bosco*. The church of Rossdroit was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and the adjoining townland is still called Kilmurry. The Nunnery of Timoling was granted to Sir Henry Harrington on May 6th, 1581, with its lands and possessions for ever, at a rent of £10 8s. 8d.

² Father Donagh Mooney, O.S.F., tells us that this Bowen, who lived at Ballyadams, Queen's County, "got his captaincy for a bribe of two gold chains which he gave to the sordid Deputy's wife."

and, on September 24th, Philip Hore (secretary to Sir Henry Wallop), was appointed treasurer, general receiver, and bailiff of the County Wexford, in succession to Walter Jerbard.

In accordance with a royal letter, dated May 22nd, 1595, a grant was issued to Sir Henry Wallop, on the ensuing November 4th, "of the site of the house of Friars, Enniscorthy, a mill by the site, an orchard there, land on the east side of the said house, the manor, ruined castle, and lands of Enniscorthy, an old weir there, lands of Garran, Kilcannon, Loughwerty, Barrycurragh, and Ballinaparka, the customs of boards, laths, timber, and boats carrying victuals, the customs of lodges during the fairs, and of things bought and sold, and fishings, and all other appurtenances of the manor and house of Friars." This grant was given "to hold, for ever, by the service of a twentieth part of a Knight's fee," the yearly rent being £13 6s. 4d. It would appear that Wallop originally intended to settle in Adare, County Limerick, and he had, on the same day, been granted a new lease of the Trinitarian, Augustinian, and Franciscan Friaries, as also the monasteries of Nenay and St. Katherine, County Limerick; but Enniscorthy seemed a more "likely" patrimony, and so he "embarked" therein.

A Royal Commission was issued to Sir Henry Wallop, Chief Baron Napper, Sir Nicholas Walshe, William Sinnott, and others, dated March 2nd, 1596, "to enquire what lands and hereditaments Art MacDermot MacEdmund *Duff* Kavanagh, and Donal MacDonogh Kavanagh hold in County Wexford, they having offered to surrender in order to obtain them by grant from the Crown;" from which it would appear that the Constable of Ferns Castle had been exacting of them provisions to the value of £80 sterling. It seemed to be a matter of "squaring" all round; and even the Deputy was only too glad to accept "a consideration" for any little services rendered. On January 10th, 1597, Wallop got a lease of various rectorial tithes in County Meath and County Dublin; and on February 1st he got a license to alienate to Sir Thomas Norris, or other English persons, his principal mansion house at Adare, and the lands assigned to it.

In February, 1597, Sir William Russell marched to the O'Byrne's country "against the rebels;" and on May 18th he surprised and defeated the noble Feagh MacHugh (who was betrayed by a relative) in his castle of Ballinacor, whom he slew, together with his followers. However, Phelim, son of Feagh, having got 350 men from Prince O'Neill, regained his father's patrimony in August, 1597.¹ Russell was superseded by Thomas, Lord Borough, on May 22nd of the same year, but the new Lord Deputy was mortally wounded near Belturbet, in September, and died October 14th. Some weeks previous to his death, Bryan *Reagh* O'More marched with the Ulster troops to Wexford, pillaged all the English he met with on his march, and cut a large body of them to pieces, besides four hundred Irish auxiliaries. Captain Thomas Lee received a commission to execute martial law throughout Leinster on July 18th, 1597; and Sir John Norris died of grief at Cork in August of the same year.²

Sir Henry Wallop got a new lease of his County Wexford property on May 7th, 1597, paying a fine of £38 2s. 6d. A royal pardon was granted to Gerald MacMurty *oge* Kavanagh, and his followers, on June 9th of the same year; and to Owen MacShane, and his father John MacJames, both of the Duffrey, as also James and Bryan MacShane of the same, on September 26th. Similarly, on November 14th, we find a pardon granted to Richard Masterson,³ Constable of Ferns, and Nicholas his brother;

¹ Phelim MacHugh O'Byrne, who received a pardon on December 24th, 1597, defeated Sir Henry Harrington and six hundred of his troops near Rathdrum, on May 28th, 1599.

² Edmund Spenser, the poet, returned from London to Kilcoleman in 1597, accompanied by his wife and sons. He himself had seen such cruel sights in Munster, brought on by "these late wars," that, he confesses, "any stony heart would have rued the same." In October, 1598, some of the Irish, goaded by the oppressive tyranny of the planters, burned Kilcoleman Castle, in which an infant child of the poet perished, and Spenser himself barely escaped. He died in absolute want in London, in January, 1599, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. His widow married Roger Sigerson.

³ Richard Masterson, Constable of Ferns, had a deputy, William Lovell, who received a pardon on September 22nd, 1600.

as also to John Masterson of Clohamon, Donogh MacCahir of Ballinabarna, Richard MacDonnell of Kildenis, Felix Delaney of Ferns, and others.

On April 1st, 1598, Wallop got a royal license to alien to Lewis Brisket, Oliver Wallop his second son, Richard Hopper, and John Brown of Dublin, gent., or any others of English blood, the site of the Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, the manor of Enniscorthy, the lands of Enniscorthy, Garran, Kilcannon, Loughwerty, Barrycurragh, and Ballinaparka. On June 17th, 1598, Robert Bowen, Provost Marshal of Leinster, was given a commission to execute martial law in that province; and on July 1st, a similar commission was given to Sir Thomas Colclough, Richard Masterson, William Synnott of Ballyfernock, Captain Richard Greame, Captain Adam Loftus, Captain Thomas Loftus, and John Allen of Fethard.

In 1598, James Butler, son of Edmund, second Viscount Mountgarret, lived at Ballyboro, now Castleboro, the present seat of Lord Carew. At the same date, Piers Butler, Baron of Kayer, lived at Kayer or Caher, generally known as Cloghnakeerah [*Clogh-na-g-Caireach* = the stone fort of the sheep], now called Wilton, the seat of Captain Alcock. This Piers was grandson to the Earl of Ossory, and he died June 4th, 1599. His tomb may yet be seen in the north transept of St. Mary's Church, New Ross, with the following epitaph: "Hic jacent Petrus Butler, filius Richardi, Domini Vicomitis de Mountgarret, quondam de Clough na Keeragh, armiger, qui obiit 4 die Junii, A.D. 1599; et Margaritæ Devereux uxoris ejus, quæ hoc monumentum fieri fecit in meuse Decembris, A.D. 1602, et ex hoc saeculo migravit"——. This good widow, after erecting this fine monument, left a vacant space for the date of her own death, which occurred in 1604.

During the Christmas festivities of the year 1598—9, Donogh MacCahir Kavanagh of Ferns, and Donal MacDoughe or *Spaniah* of Enniscorthy, went into rebellion owing to the tyranny of Wallop and his underlings. Spaniah married Eleanor, daughter of Bryan MacCahir of Borris-Idrone, County Carlow, and their eldest son was Sir Morgan Kavanagh. Sir Henry Wallop died miserably in Dublin on April 14th, 1599, and there was a huge

monument erected to his memory in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Next day, April 15th, the unfortunate Earl of Essex arrived as Lord Lieutenant with close on 20,000 troops, determined to make "a clean sweep of the Irishry," as suggested by the "gentle" Spenser; and Sir George Carey (not to be confounded with his infamous namesake, Sir George Carew), replaced Wallop as Treasurer at War for Ireland.

On June 23rd, 1599, Essex made a detour, on his journey from Waterford to Dublin, to South Wexford, and spent that whole day at Balmagir, near the Lake of Ballyteige, when he knighted Sir James Devereux, brother to Sir Nicholas. He then marched on, but was afraid to delay in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy, owing to the "rising" of the Kavanaghs, bitterly deploring, as he writes, "the evil star" that led him to Ireland; and on August 28th the Earl of Ormonde was appointed chief leader of the troops of Leinster. On September 24th, Adam Loftus and Sir George Carey were appointed Lords Justices on the recall of Essex, who set out for London four days later to meet his doom.

Lord Mountjoy arrived as Viceroy on February 26th, 1600, and at the end of March the sons of Lord Mountgarret, with other members of the Butler family, joined the Kavanaghs in rebellion. On March 31st, Louis Briskett¹ of Macmine, County Wexford, surrendered the office of Clerk of the Council of Munster to Richard Boyle, afterwards Earl of Cork. Early in April the Earl of Ormonde was taken prisoner by Owen MacRory O'More, but before the end of July many of the Anglo-Irish nobles submitted to the Crown. On July 16th, Sir William Synnot, commander of the forces in the County Wexford, who resided at Ballyfernock, near Enniscorthy, was commissioned to execute martial law "without giving any quarter."²

¹ On November 28th, 1594, Ludwig (or Louis) Briskett of Macmine, Clerk of the Council of Munster, was appointed Clerk of the Casualties, in succession to Sir Edward Waterhouse, "with an allowance of 12d. in the pound for the sums recovered by him." He gave his name to the townland near Taghmon, now known as Bricketstown.

² Leinster, and of course County Wexford, was in a deplorable

After the death of Richard Meredith, Bishop of Leighlin, in 1599, the Crown appointed Robert Graves, A.M., as first Protestant Bishop of the united sees of Ferns and Leighlin, July 16th, 1600, "with the Deanery of Cork, the Precentorship of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Dublin, and the Prebend of Tulloghbracky, in the Cathedral of Limerick, *in commendam*." Bishop Graves was drowned in Dublin Bay, October 1st of the same year, and on January 18th, 1601, Nicholas Stafford, Chancellor of Ferns, was nominated by the Queen as his successor, who, on March 18th, was consecrated, and granted a license to hold *in commendam* the chancellorship, "together with the rectory of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Wexford, the vicarage of Rathmacknee, and the rectory of Inchboyne, in the diocese of Dublin."

On November 12th, 1600, a royal pardon was granted to Bryan MacDonogh Kavanagh, Ellen FitzTheobald Butler of Ballyloughan, Dermot MacDonogh Kavanagh, and other members of the clan in the Counties of Wexford, Kilkenny, and Carlow; and on March 28th, 1601, a similar pardon was extended to Richard Butler, son and heir of Viscount Mountgarret, Edmund Butler, son of said Richard, Margaret O'Neill, wife of said Richard Edward Butler, Theobald FitzWalter Butler, and others in County Wexford.¹ On May 15th, 1601, numerous pardons were granted, which included Donal *Spaniah*, Murty MacGerald Kavanagh, Cahir *carragh* MacDonogh Kavanagh, Edmund and Criffan

condition in the years 1600—1. The ruthless Deputy had his troops "well supplied with sickles, scythes, and harrows, and in a short while all the counties of Leinster were turned into a barren wilderness." William Synnot, who was appointed Justice of the Liberty of Wexford on November 8th, 1594, was knighted on June 22nd, 1600.

¹ On September 13th, 1600, Owen MacDonogh, Edmund Brit, Laurence FitzHenry, Nicholas FitzLaurence FitzHenry, Richard *gankagh* Furlong, all of Macmine, Walter FitzHenry, Barnaby Scurlock, and Shane O'Murrough of Killurin, Richard Redmond FitzPatrick of Enniscorthy, Pierse Esmonde, Thomas MacArt and Olive FitzHenry of Kilkeran, Murtogh MacDonnell of Clonmore, Walter Furlong of Davidstown, and others in County Wexford, were pardoned at the suit of Captain Laurence Esmonde.

MacArt Kavanagh of Ballybane, Edmund MacBryan MacCahir Kavanagh of Kildealy, John FitzJames Synnott of Ballybrennan, John MacJames of the Duffrey, David O'Currin of Moneyhore, Murchoe *ban* MacDonnell of the Duffrey, William O'Doran of Clonhaston, Gabriel O'Doran of Drumgoole, Donal MacArt O'Murphy, Gillapatrik MacCarroll O'Doran of Tubbergall, Edmund O'Cullen, *surgeon*, and others. On May 30th, Morgan MacBryan Kavanagh of Polmonty, and his wife Eleanor Butler, Donogh and Cairbre MacHenry of Templesallagh, Richard Forstall of Cloghnakeeagh, *harper*, Walter O'Bolger, *surgeon*, Murrough *bacagh* MacDonal *Reagh* of Curracloe, Richard *boy* MacJames, *piper*, &c., were pardoned.

Thomas Ram, A.M., "preacher of God's Word," was presented by the Crown to the Deanery of Ferns on March 16th, 1601; and, on February 24th, 1602, he was given the vicarage of Balruddery, diocese of Dublin, and the Precentorship of Christ Church Cathedral, vacant by the demise of Bishop Graves.

The fall of Dunboy on June 17th, 1602, ended the war in Ireland, which had been fiercely raging since 1581. Queen Elizabeth died on March 24th, 1603, and was succeeded by James I. Almost immediately the Catholics in County Wexford took possession of their old churches, many of which were fast falling into decay. On April 24th, Francis Bryan, Mayor of Wexford, wrote to Lord Deputy Mountjoy in regard to the charge made by the Protestant Bishop Stafford, who asserted that the Mayor, with the Sheriffs and Burgesses, had "entered into all the churches of this town [which had been purified by the Rev. John Coppinger, S.J., three weeks previously], especially into St. Mary's, taking thither men armed, dispossessing the ministers, not naming the Bishop but an ordinary man, and having Mass said in the churches openly." . . . The Mayor explains as follows: "Long before the decease of our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth, and since, Mass was daily and openly said in certain houses, whereunto all the inhabitants of this town (very few excepted) did resort . . . and in one church, named St. Patrick's, which was ruinous (the rest continuing as before) Mass is said, which the people think will be

graciously accepted of his most royal Majesty. . . . Assuring his lordship of the most firm obedience and loyalty of this poor corporation to His Majesty," &c.

On September 11th, 1604, James I. re-granted the lands of Ballybuskard, Ballinastraw, Clonmore, &c., for ever, to Ralph Sigerson. The County Wexford was partitioned into baronies, by a jury assembled at Ballyteige, near Gorey, on January 12th, 1605, namely, the baronies of Forth, Bargo, Shelburne, Shilmalier, and Bantry, "with Monk's lands, and all the lands from the top of the mountain of Slievecarragh unto the river of the Barrow," five *English* baronies; and three *Irish* baronies, namely, Gorey, Scarawalsh, and Ballaghkeene. Enniscorthy is within the barony of Scarawalsh, and, like that of Ferns, formed a separate lordship, but the then jury were unable to give any estimate of its area, and so were unable to divide it "into marte lands or quarters."

Bishop Stafford died at Fethard, November 15th, 1604, whereupon Thomas Ram, Dean of Cork, was consecrated Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin on May 2nd, 1605. He also held the Deanery of Ferns, valued at £60 per annum, the Rectory of St. Mary's, Wexford, valued at £40 per annum, and the Precentorship of Christ Church, Dublin, valued at £18 per annum. This prelate resided in various places, and was at first anxious to transfer the Cathedral Church from Ferns to Wexford or New Ross, but he took care to provide an ample estate for his family near Gorey, known as Ramsfort.

In 1606, Sir John Davis was appointed as Commissioner of Assize and Gaol Delivery for the Counties of Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow. Writing to the Earl of Salisbury, he gives a most detailed narrative of his proceedings, in a letter dated November 13th, 1606. In the account of the Wexford Assizes, this judicial personage describes the number of cases as unusually large, but, he adds, "there was only one prisoner condemned and executed, whose offence was that he procured the house of a poor Protestant Vicar to be burned, which we found, upon examination of the circumstances of the fact, to have been done rather out of personal malice to his person than to his religious profession." This same Attorney-General, in 1607, thus

writes of the “reformed” clergy:—“The incumbents, both parsons and vicars, did appear to be such poor, ragged, ignorant creatures, as we could not esteem any of them worthy of the meanest of those livings, albeit, many of them are not worth more than 40s. per annum.”

An inquisition relative to the property of Sir Henry Wallop was held at Wexford on August 27th, 1610, a summary of which is as follows: “Henry Wallop, knight, was found seized of the manor and castle of Enniscorthy, with two carucates of land, and of all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the town and fields of Enniscorthy aforesaid, and of all the waters, rivulets, &c., with the right of fishing in small boats, called *cots*, with nets, as is the custom, over the rivers Slaney and Urrin, between Tomacurra and Brownscastle; also of one market every Thursday fortnight, in Enniscorthy, throughout the year, and in Templeshannon, twice every year, that is, one to be held on the 15th of August, and the other on the 8th of September, annually. The said Henry is also seized of all the lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, in the town and lands of Moynetealy, otherwise Ballynaparka, Giffories Rock (the Turret Rocks), Cloghvass, Kilcannenan, and Garrahan, and of all the circuit, ambit, and precincts of the late house of Friars, Enniscorthy, and of all the messuages and buildings below the same place, and also of one garden and two small parcels of land, one of the parcels containing about six acres, lying below the aforesaid late house of Friars, and one water mill, with the watercourse of same adjoining—all which premises he holds by the twentieth part of a knight’s fee.

“The aforesaid Henry is also seised, as in fee, of six messuages and sixty acres of land in the town of Templeshannon, and of all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the town of Tomnefinshoge, Dowengall, and Knockrathshinoge, and in Ballynabarna, Currantiscilane, Ballynegoun, otherwise Mongan, and Carrignebruse, in the aforesaid county, *all in fee*, and of the castle of Ferns, but in trust only. He is also seised, as in fee, of all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the towns of Killabeg, Clone, Effernock, Tomsallagh, and Kilkevan, which he holds of the Bishop of Ferns in trust, at the yearly payment of £4 sterling.

“The aforesaid Henry is, in like manner, seised of the Priory, Parish Church, and Rectory, to wit, of St. Peter the Great, in the town of Wexford, otherwise called *Selskar*, with the great and small tithes of all fish, altarages, tithes, a corn mill, &c. ; and he is also seised of the Parish Church and Rectory of St. Tulloch’s (Olave’s), and of St. Peter-the-Less, near Wexford, of Killian, Kilmachree, St. Ibar’s, otherwise St. Ivors (St. Iberius), St. Margaret’s, Ishartmon, Carrig, Killurin, Ardkevan, Ardcolme, Screen, Killilly, Ballyvaldon, Kilmollock, St. Nicholas, Ballynaslaney, Tikillen, Castlesow, Rathaile, and Killisk, with the great and small tithes of corn and hay, oblations, customs, &c. ; and he holds all and singular of the aforesaid premises, with their appurtenances, of the present King, as he holds his castle in Wexford in trust only,¹ in fee and common socage, and not *in capite* . . . at a yearly rental of £75 6s. sterling.”

From the above *precis*, the reader will see what a vast property Wallop possessed at this date, and especially how the Church was impoverished by the appropriation of so many rectories in the diocese of Ferns. At this time Enniscorthy was still a poor hamlet, the two principal buildings being the old Norman Castle and the Franciscan Friary, the latter being utilized as his “principal mansion” by Sir Henry Wallop. St. Mary’s Church was fast becoming ruinous, and the scattered Catholic population of Enniscorthy worshipped in a secluded spot on the way to Drumgoole [*Druingual* = the ridge of the charcoal or fire bote], the site of which may still be seen at the end of *Chapel Lane*, now a sort of *cul de sac*, not far from the House of Missions, Templeshannon. The venerable confessor, Robert Lalor, was Vicar-General of the sees of Dublin, Kildare, and Ferns, from 1594 to 1606.² Father Daniel O’Drohan, who went under the *alias* of “James Walshe,” was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Ferns in 1606,³

¹ In 1608 the castle of Wexford, as also the borough, were granted to the Wexford Corporation at a small rent.

² In 1604 Bishop MacCraith of Cork and Cloyne had “faculties” for the province of Leinster. He died a confessor in 1606.

³ From a letter written by Father Luke Bennett, S.J., on April

and in 1609 he granted faculties to the Franciscans of Wexford and Enniscorthy to administer the sacraments—a unique privilege which the Wexford Friars still possess—the only case of the kind, I believe, in Ireland.

The Friars of Enniscorthy lived and toiled in the neighbourhood of Templeshannon and Drumgoole. As yet there was no bridge over the Slaney, and although, on August 10th, 1582, there was a specification drawn up “between Paul Finglass, carpenter, and Arthur Lord Grey, for the erection of a timber bridge connecting Enniscorthy and Templeshannon, 240 feet in length, standing on fourteen piers, at a cost of £350,” yet no such bridge was built, and the only means of communication between the two villages was by a ferry. The grand Friary Church (incorrectly called the Abbey) served for the purpose of a Sessions House in the year 1610, and subsequently. At this date Donal MacDoughe, or *Spaniah*, Kavanagh, lived in Enniscorthy. In the inquisition quoted above, it is stated that Kavanagh claimed “the entire of the lands of Enniscorthy, *excepting the lands belonging to the late house of Friars*, with the lands of Farrenenaree [King’s Island], and two-thirds of the lands of Knockshinoge, Downegall, Tomnafinshoge, and Ballynaparka.” No wonder, indeed, that Donal Spaniah should have claimed *his own* property, and it is characteristic of the man that, though compelled to submit to the Crown, he never waived his right to the Enniscorthy estates, always excepting the lands which had been given by his ancestor, King Donald *Fuscus*, to the Franciscan Friars, and which, as a good Catholic, he would have nothing to do with. Although granted a pension of ten shillings a day from the Crown, he never recovered an acre of his old inheritance.¹

Father Mooney, O.S.F., when engaged on materials for his *History of the Irish Franciscans*, visited the County Wexford in the autumn of the year 1611. He describes the town as “wholly inhabited by English Protestants;”

28th, 1607, we learn that Father “James Walshe” was labouring in the vicinity of Ross.

¹In 1612 Dowling MacMurrough Kavanagh got a grant of Ballygobban, or Gobbinstown, near Ballywilliam.

and thus writes of the friary : “ It has not been occupied by the friars since the time of the suppression of the monasteries, but there are persons still living who remember to have seen the survivors, scattered here and there among their friends, till all passed away in the course of time. I lately happened upon some old vestments, which were being preserved in a chest in the house of a nobleman, for the use of this convent. They were decayed through age, and almost of no use. Among them were some rich chasubles and dalmatics, with figures and crosses worked in gold, as also copes, antependiums, and other articles of church furniture. Though now worthless they indicate the pious devotion of the people of Enniscorthy, and the magnificence of their religious services in former days. . . . This Wallop . . . had no children to inherit his wealth. He took up his residence in the convent, and altered the buildings so as to form a splendid mansion. It has now passed away from him and his heirs into the hands of strangers.”

On June 11th, 1611, the King granted to Sir Francis Blundell a large district near Enniscorthy, including the lands of Drumgoole, Kilgoole [*Coill-gual*, now Killagoley], Clonhaston, and divers others. In the same year Sir Edward Fisher was granted the advowson of the rectory and vicarage of Kiltennel, as also about 2000 acres of the towns, lands, tenements, &c., situated in the territory called Macamores (almost coincident with the eastern portion of the Barony of Ballaghkeene), together with the river Owenvarra, and Tara Hill, the entire of which was created the Manor of Fisherstown or Fisher’s Prospect, now known as Courtown, near Gorey.

Bishop Ram sent in an elaborate report on the state of the united dioceses of Ferns and Leighlin, on September 1st, 1612, from which we learn that the Vicar Apostolic of Ferns, “ James Walshe,” really Dr. Daniel O’Drohan, “ sometimes resided at the house of John Shea, in the town of New Ross, and sometimes at the Bannow, being five miles beyond Ferns.” He values the see—then containing 143 parishes—at 100 marks sterling, that is, £66 13s. 4d., “ but, having recovered the manor of Fethard, it is now better, per annum, by £40 ”

Ram removed the episcopal chair to Gorey, the name of which town he changed to Newborough, and built a church there for a cathedral called Christ Church, Newborough, as also a fine palace. His report is highly interesting, but the exigencies of space will not permit of its insertion. However, he says that there was an aisle of Ferns Cathedral available for divine service, and that he had established a free school at Wexford, still that he must needs acknowledge himself "an unprofitable servant." His son Thomas was subsequently Dean of Ferns,¹ and a younger son, Robert, held the prebend of Crosspatrick.

On June 28th, 1613, James I. made a grant to Sir Adam Loftus of one thousand acres of profitable land in the country of the Murrowes (except twenty acres in Kilmollock, "adjoining to the church there, for the glebe thereof"), which were formed into the Manor of Rathaille, with 600 acres in demesne.

Enniscorthy received its charter as a corporate town on March 24th, 1614, for a Portrieve or Sovereign, twelve free burgesses, and a commonality, assisted by a Recorder, Town Clerk, and two Sergeants at Arms. Edward Fisher and Richard Perkins were returned as Members of Parliament to represent the newly-created borough. From this date forward Enniscorthy became a town of considerable importance, and the great water-way to Wexford, on the Slaney, was traversed by ships and barges of large tonnage. Even before this date, a large man of war had been built at Wexford, and the river was then deep enough to admit of its sailing up as far as Enniscorthy.

James I. signed an order, September 10th, 1611, for the *new* "plantation" of County Wexford, with a view of peopling the north and east of the county with strangers. A royal commission had been appointed to inquire into the title deeds of the old possessors of the soil, and to make a clearance "especially of the Kavanaghs, Kinsellaghs, Macamores, MacVaddocks, and Murphys." Leland, with all his bias, has to acknowledge that the five commissioners

¹Abel Ram, son of this Thomas, was appointed Sheriff of Dublin in 1673, and Lord Mayor in 1684.

“scandalously abused their trusts;” and the most iniquitous means were adopted to obtain verdicts for the Crown. Thus, on May 7th, 1613, *fifty-seven* of the ancient proprietors in the baronies of Gorey and Ballaghkeene, and half the Barony of Scarawalsh—that is, 68,000 acres, arable and pasture land, between the river Slaney and the sea, were ruthlessly deprived of their estates, and only *twenty-one* of these were recommended by the Commissioners “to be allowed to retain *some part* of their ancient inheritance.” The remainder of the old landowners, numbered at “about 14,500 men, women, and children,” were ordered to be removed, under the King’s order, at the will of the patentees.” In May, 1616, Art MacDermot Kavanagh, Chief of the Kinsellaghs, Redmond MacDamore, Richard MacVaddock, Donal *Spaniah* Kavanagh, and others of the old gentry, presented a petition, through their agent, Henry Walsh, against this most unscrupulous proceeding, but all in vain. It is here only pertinent to observe that the lands belonging to Sir Henry Wallop of Enniscorthy, in these baronies, estimated at 1040 acres, were confirmed to him.¹

By an inquisition taken at New Ross, April 17th, 1616, the following lands, &c., were described as of the ancient inheritance of Edward Butler of Kayer or Cloghnakeeragh, now Wilton, near Enniscorthy: “The manor of Kayer, with six ploughlands . . . ; five ploughlands in Clonmore, Ballyellan, Kilcarbery, &c. ; thirteen ploughlands in Moneyhore, Templescoby, Tomanearly, and the mill thereof, Boolabawn, Glandearg, Moneytucker, Davidstown, Monglas, Kiltrea, half the Kainsperrin, the woods of Agher [Killoughram], Rosdroit, Courtmocuddy, &c. ; five ploughlands in Corlican, Whitechurch, Bricketstown, Taghmon, &c. ; . . . 10d. out of Coolick and Ballykevan, and a birchen broom upon every feast day of SS. Philip and James, due by Thomas Furlong of Carrigmenan,” with numerous other lands and emoluments ; also, the patronage of Clonmore, and half of the tithes thereof, of which he held of the King, by knight’s service, *in capite*, &c.

¹ Sir Henry Wallop died November 5th, 1624, and was succeeded in his inheritance by Robert Wallop.

On November 5th, 1615, Donal *Spaniah* Kavanagh surrendered his pension of 10s. a day, and, in return, was regranted it, with "one marte land and a half." On July 10th, 1618, Nicholas Loftus of Fethard, was given a grant of Ballyellis, near Monaseed, containing 736 acres in MacDamore's country; and, on August 28th, 1619, he acquired "the manor, lordship, and late preceptory of Kilclogan; the rectories of Hook, Templetown, Ballybrasil, and Rochestown," with various other lands. His relative, Sir Adam Loftus, on March 20th, 1619, was accorded a patent for various lands in County Wexford, including the castle of Bannow, the manors of Rathaile¹ and Laghorne, with sundry rectories in County Wexford. Nicholas Loftus was Sheriff of the County for the year 1620.

Sir Francis Blundell, on August 2nd, 1620, had a royal confirmation of all his lands in County Wexford, which, in addition to those previously mentioned (in 1611), comprised "the island of Templeshannon, on the river Slaney; the fishing of the river Slaney, the custom of the tenth part of all the woods, called by the names of Pipe Staves, Hogshead Staves, Barrel Staves, Long Boards, Ship Plank, Beams, Timber, Black Timber, Rafters, Small Timber, and all other kinds of wood passing or carried by, to the land or banks of Clonhastin, Templeshannon, Drumgoole, and Kilgoole [Killagooley]; and also the custom of 4d. out of all merchandizes of the value of 3s. 4d. brought to said lands by the said waters—to hold all the premises by fealty and the rent of £8 Irish, with the creation thereof into the manor of Blundel; a Saturday Market, and two Fairs on the feasts of St. John the Baptist and St. Michael at Templeshannon; *with a Ferry and the keeping of a Ferry Boat* from the lands and island of Templeshannon, called Island Mogue, to the town and lands of Enniscorthy, with all the customs and profits thereof." This document clearly establishes the fact that there was no bridge over the Slaney at that date, nor was there one at Wexford.

¹ Richard Stafford of Rathayle died October 27th, 1624, and was buried in Selskar Priory.

In 1622 the Honorable James Butler, son of the second Lord Mountgarret, left Ballyboro, or Castleboro, near Enniscorthy, and went to reside at Tinnehinch Castle, County Carlow. He married the widow of Piers Butler of Duiske Abbey, and subsequently changed his dwelling-house to Longrange Castle, County Kilkenny. During the same year Donal *Spaniah* conveyed portion of his small pension by deed, and the old warrior died at an advanced age on March 12th, 1631. There are yet preserved the consistorial records of the see of Ferns for the year 1618, but unfortunately many subsequent years are missing.

On September 17th, 1625, David Rothe, Bishop of Ossory, wrote a long and interesting letter to Peter Lombard, Archbishop of Armagh, in which he incidentally informed the Primate that Sir George Calvert (afterwards created Baron Baltimore), who had become a Catholic in 1624, "was now residing in the Manor House of Ferns," and that he had purchased the lands of Cloghamon from Sir Richard Masterson for £1600. Lord Baltimore¹ acquired the lands of Clone and Abbeydown, March 24th, 1637.

Dr. Daniel O'Drohan, Vicar Apostolic of Ferns, died on September 12th, 1626, after a most trying rule of sixteen years. On his decease the clergy petitioned the Holy See for the appointment, as bishop, of Father John Murphy, O.P., which was backed up by Archbishop Fleming of Dublin; but the Pope had already nominated Bishop Roche, who came to his new diocese in 1629. On February 25th, 1632, this zealous prelate, whose see was then only worth "*twenty crowns a year*," reconstituted the ancient Chapter of Ferns, making the following appointments: Dean, William Devereux, Vicar-General; Chancellor, John Wadding;² Precentor, Richard FitzHarris; Archdeacon, Daniel O'Brien; Treasurer, Thomas Turner.

¹ Sir George Calvert was made Secretary of State on February 15th, 1619; and, on May 2nd, 1620, the King gave him a pension of £1000 a year from the Customs.

² In 1621 Father John Wadding, a secular priest of Wexford, wrote an ecclesiastical History of Ireland, which is quoted by Lynch in his *Cambrensis Eversus*.

Mr. Justice Cressy, writing to the Privy Council from Wexford, on August 15th, 1633, says: "The jails are here, in a manner, empty, and the indictments and complaints few, and of small moment; but I find that this country, which doth contain the most ancient English Plantators (?) . . . are now in a sort become principally Romish." Having expatiated at length on his own influence in upholding the allegiance due to the King, and to the efforts he had made in defence of same on circuit, threatening the juries with "fearful consequences" in the event of non-compliance, he adds: "But I fear all in vain, for they are all recusants; not one Protestant among them. I shall this day press them to find their Bishop of Ferns (Dr. Roche), here placed amongst them by the Pope's authority; what they will do I shall hereafter relate unto your lordship."

From a diary kept by Sir William Brereton, now in the British Museum (portion of which was published in the *Christian Examiner* in 1827), we get a glimpse of social life in County Wexford in 1634. This worthy Cheshire squire, accompanied by two business friends named Plummer and Needham, made a prolonged tour of Leinster and part of Munster, and they arrived at Enniscorthy on July 10th, 1634. The subjoined extracts are decidedly like the jottings of dear old Pepys, and show that Squire Brereton, though a man of large means and inclined to enjoy himself, was rather parsimonious:—

"*July 10th.*—We went hence towards Wexford, which is accounted eight miles, but they are very long miles. We crossed the river at Enniscorthy on horseback [thus proving that there was then no bridge], and at the Carrig, a mile from Wexford, we passed over a narrow ferry. Still, the grass in the country is burned up, and here they complain of drought, and affirm they never felt such intense scorching hot weather in Ireland. [Here he enters into a disquisition on agriculture.] . . . We lodged at Wexford, at the sign of the *Windmill*, at the house of Paul Bennett.

"*July 18th.*—This day I went to the Court (the Assizes being now held here for the County of Wexford, which began on Wednesday last, and ended this day), where is

the Shire Hall. The judges that ride this circuit are Sir George Shirley, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and Sir John Philpot, one of the judges of Common Pleas, a little black, temperate man. . . . Here I saw four Justices of the Peace upon the bench with Sir John Philpot, among which was one Devereux [Philip Devereux of Balmagir] and my cousin Mainwaring, uncle to Mr. Mainwaring that now is; a courteous, grave, civil gentleman, who came from the bench and saluted me in the hall, and accompanied me to the tavern, and bestowed wine upon me. He is agent to Sir Henry Wallop, and is a Justice of the Peace for the County, and was a burgess of the Parliament." This Mainwaring told Brereton of a half dozen desperate "rebels" who were, as he naïvely says, "to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, *so soon as they are apprehended*" (on the principle of "first catch your hare"). Strangely enough the diarist noted the possibilities of the Fishguard and Rosslare sea route (only fifty-eight miles), and narrates how Sir Adam Colclough "had dined at Milford in Wales, and supped in this town, which is about twenty-four hours' sail from Bristol, and as much from Dublin." Whilst commenting on the well-dressed male population of Wexford, our good squire, like Pepys, was also observant as to the ladies. "Some gentlewomen of good quality I observed clothed in good handsome gowns, petticoats, and hats, who wore Irish rugs [cloaks] which have handsome, comely large fringes [capas], which go about their necks, and serve instead of bands. This rug-fringe is joined to a garment which comes round about them, and reacheth to the very ground, and thus is a handsome, comely vestment. . . .

"The most of the women are bare-necked and clean-skinned, and wear a crucifix, tied in a black necklace, hanging betwixt their breasts—it seems they are not ashamed of their religion, nor desire to conceal themselves; and, indeed, in this town there are many Papists. The present Mayor, Mr. Mark Cheevers [Richard Cheevers was Mayor in 1629] attended the judges to the church door, and so did the Sheriff of the Shire, *both which left them there, and went to Mass, which is tolerated here*, and publicly resorted to in three or four houses in this town,

wherein are very few Protestants, as appeared by that slender congregation at church where the judges were." Here it may be observed that at this date the Franciscans had a temporary residence and chapel at a house in High Street, Wexford (recently occupied by Mrs. M'Cabe, not far from the yard of the *People* printing works), under the guardianship of Father John Synnott (1615—1633).

"This morning I went unto and visited both judges, and was respectfully used by them. The Mayor, a well-bred gentleman, that hath an estate in the country, and was Knight of the Shire for the last Parliament, invited me to dinner, as also to supper with the judges."

On July 20th, Sir William Brereton¹ left Wexford and proceeded to Tintern Abbey, where he stayed with Sir Adam Colclough. "This is a very long, stately house," he writes, "and of good receipt, adjoining the Abbey, which is still in good repair; and Sir Adam keeps a good, hospitable board, well supplied and attended, and is to all a most warm-hearted and courteous gentleman. We stayed two days here until the storm abated, when we left him, highly gratified for his kind entertainment, and passing over the Passage, proceeded to Waterford."

Bishop Ram died at Dublin, November 24th, 1634, and was buried in Christ Church, Newborough [Gorey], being the founder of the Ram property, now all passed into the hands of strangers. He was succeeded in the see of Ferns and Leighlin by George Andrews, Dean of Limerick, who was given the preferment by Lord Wentworth, "as a punishment, it being then one of the poorest and meanest bishoprics in the whole kingdom;" and he was consecrated May 14th, 1635. We find an acknowledged receipt, dated July 12th, 1641, from George, Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin,² for £300 "towards the building of an episcopal palace at Ferns, in lieu of the Manor of Fethard, which had been conveyed to Nicholas Loftus and his heirs for ever."

¹ His namesake William, "third Lord Brereton of Leighlin in Ireland," was elected M.P. for Cheshire in 1666, but had to sell his Cheshire estates in 1660. He was one of the founders of the Royal Society, and died in 1679.

² Bishop Andrews died in London, October 8th, 1648, and was succeeded by Robert Price, consecrated January 27th, 1660. He died in Dublin, May 26th, 1666.

ENNISCORTHY UNDER THE PURITAN REGÍME.



IN February, 1639, Sir Thomas Esmonde was returned as one of the M.P.'s for Enniscorthy, but was regarded as a "rebel" in 1642, and expelled the House on June 22nd of that year.¹ Dr. William Devereux, V.G., was elected Vicar Capitular of Ferns on the death of Bishop Roche, and was formally appointed Ordinary of the diocese on July 29th, 1640. This prelate was the author of the excellent *Catechism of the Christian Doctrine*, still used throughout Ferns, and he also composed many hymns and Christmas Carols, until a recent period popularly sung in the baronies of Forth and Bargy.

On December 9th, 1641, the Lord President of Munster put to death four persons at Ballyowen, and hanged six innocent labourers at Ballymurrin, and eight at Ballygalbert. On February 23rd, 1642, an order was issued by the Lords Justices, empowering the Earl of Ormonde "to endeavour with His Majesty's forces to wound, kill, slay, and destroy by all the ways and means he may, all the said rebels, their adherents, and relievers; and to burn, spoil, waste, consume, destroy, and demolish all the places, towns and houses, where the rebels are, or have been relieved and harboured."²

¹Through the kindness of Sir Thomas H. Grattan Esmonde, M.P., I was given an exact copy of the resolution of the House of Commons, passed on this occasion, wherein the nine members from the County Wexford, who are described as "rotten and unprofitable members, fit to be cut off," were formally expelled. The other eight members were: Messrs. Christopher Hollywood and Gerald Cheevers (Borough of Bannow); John Furlong and Patrick French (Wexford); Nicholas Dormer and Christopher Brooke (New Ross); Hugh Rochford and Nicholas Stafford (Fethard). In all, forty members were expelled.

²At this time the Parliamentarians burned the episcopal palace which Bishop Ram had built at Gorey.

Early in 1642 the old Franciscan Convent, Wexford, was restored to the Friars, and the famous Rory O'More was a guest there during the summer of that year. A few Franciscans also returned to Enniscorthy, and lived at Drumgoole. On August 9th, 1642, Dr. Devereux (who was present at the Kilkenny Synod in May) issued an order "for the collection and allotment of the great and small tithes of the see of Ferns," in aid of the Confederate army, the collectors being Father Thomas Turner, Rector of St. Fintan's, Carne, St. Margaret's, and Our Lady of the Island, Mr. William Codd of Castletown, and John Devereux of Summertown; and a sum of £3000 was paid into the Confederate Treasury from County Wexford.¹ The forces consisted of 3000 foot and 500 cavalry, and among the county leaders were Daniel O'Ferrall of Enniscorthy, and Nicholas FitzHenry of Macmine; Sir Thomas Esmonde being Major-General. Alexander Masterson of Court, Oulart, died April 3rd, 1640; and in 1644 Henry Masterson was appointed Sheriff of County Wexford.

Nicholas French, P.P., of Wexford, who resided at the Friary in that town, of which F. James Synnott was Guardian, was consecrated Bishop of Ferns during the last week of November, 1645, and was present as Chancellor of the Synod held at Waterford, August 12th, 1646. Meantime, on March 2nd, 1643, the army of Ormonde arrived at Clohamon, it being the fair day²—and

¹ On October 20th, 1642, there arrived at Wexford a consignment of 2000 muskets from the Holy See for the Confederates; and 500 of them were forwarded by the Supreme Council to Owen Roe O'Neill. On the 18th of December the members of the Supreme Council visited Wexford with a view of composing animosities, "escorted by 500 infantry and 200 cavalry," and succeeded in getting "the chiefest of the burgesses" to take the Confederate oath. From Wexford they proceeded to New Ross, and chartered there some Dutch vessels, including the *St. Michael the Archangel*, a ship of 120 tons, commanded by Francis Oliver.

² The great fair or "pattern" of Clohamon was June 11th. Edward Masterson of Ferns was captured by the King's forces on March 12th, 1643, and brought a prisoner to Dublin. At this time, Ormonde and Lisle marched to New Ross from Rathvilly, "whose ancient wall they breached after a few days' siege." The Governor of New Ross was Captain Fox, and he bravely repulsed the assault, "drove the enemy back, reinforced the wall and made

a famous fair was Clohamon—where the soldiers made great spoil, and rested that night at Ballycarney, near Enniscorthy. From an official communication of that period we extract the following: “Next day (March 3rd) the army came to an obscure village called Templescoby. By the way as they came there was a castle upon the right, out of which there came three troopers, offering, as it seemed, to fight with some of our men, who did not refuse to meet them. The rebels fled, and, ere they were aware, some of our men had got between them. These rebels were two brothers called Mastersons, and the Lord Esmond’s sister’s son. One of the brothers as they were making back to be gone had his horse laid fast in a mire, and the other brother and the serving-man staid for him, so that all three were taken. Until this night that we lodged in Templescoby it was not known to the army to what place the journey was intended; whether to Wexford, which was twelve miles off, or to Kilkenny, which was not much further, or to Ross, being of a like distance from us. About the beginning of the night some troopers were sent to Ross, whither they came about the beginning of next day. They were at first taken for some of Preston’s men, and bid very welcome, but when they required the inhabitants to yield the town to the King’s Majesty they refused, and professed to stand on their defence to the utmost.” The battle of Ballinvegga (generally called the battle of Ross) was fought on March 18th, at which Lord Lisle and Sir Richard Greenville fled like cowards, but the Confederates had to retreat, and Sir Morgan Kavanagh was slain. Two years later, namely, on March 19th, 1645, Lord Esmonde was forced to surrender Duncannon Fort to General Preston, on behalf of the Confederates.

it defensible, three Parliament ships all the while playing on the town.” On this occasion, as we learn from the *Aphorismical Discovery*, Arthur Fox and his 1500 men “were efficiently assisted by the women of Ross, who in that exigent shewed themselves the best of their sex.” Being compelled to raise the siege, Ormonde and Lisle marched to Ballinvegga, near Old Ross, seven miles distant, on March 17th. At the close of the year 1644 the Marquis of Antrim returned to Ireland, and landed at Wexford, where he manned a number of frigates, which, with the two belonging to Owen Roe O’Neill, scoured the coasts and captured considerable booty for the Confederates.

Ferns Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell (who had previously dismantled Limerick Castle), and on the following day the army forded the Slaney, there being then no bridge at Scarawalsh. As the shades of evening fell on the evening of Saturday, September 29th, 1649, Cromwell came in sight of Vinegar Hill. "That night," he writes, we marched into the fields of a village called Enniscorthy, belonging to Mr. Robert Wallop, where was a strong castle, very well manned and provided for by the enemy" [the Confederates].

Enniscorthy, from 1642 to 1649, was in the hands of the Confederates, although the landlord of the town, Mr. Robert Wallop,¹ grandson of Sir Henry Wallop, was a Puritan. He was M.P. for Andover, and one of the judges who tried King Charles I. (beheaded January 30th, 1649), on which account he gladly welcomed "Noll of the Blazing Peak."

Cromwell describes his temporary abode at Enniscorthy as "a very fair house belonging to the same worthy person [Wallop], a monastery of Franciscan Friars, *the considerablest in all Ireland*: they ran away the night before we came." No wonder, indeed, that the Friars² fled at the approach of such a monster of cruelty, but two of them were martyred subsequently at Wexford.

On Cromwell's arrival, Captain Baggot was Governor of Enniscorthy, but he thought it prudent to surrender the Castle. Noll writes thus: "We summoned the Castle,

¹ Robert Wallop was present at the trial on January 22nd, 1649. He married Anne, daughter of Henry Wrothesley, Earl of Southampton.

² The then Guardian of the Enniscorthy Convent was Father Bonaventure MacLoughlin, whose zeal was undoubted, as may be testified by the character given of him by the Ormonde faction in a document issued by Ormonde himself from Kilkenny Castle on May 15th, 1649: "Father MacLoughlin was, and is, the principal leader of all the seditious Friars in lower Leinster. From him they receive license, authority, and liberty for all their undertakings against the duty they owe the State. It was for this purpose and end that he was appointed Commissary over these parts by the Provincial. His sedition and violence are so well known in the County Wexford that no further proof can be needed."

and they refused to yield at the first; but upon better consideration they were willing to deliver the place to us, which accordingly they did, leaving their great guns, arms, ammunition, and provisions behind them." He then marched to Wexford,¹ before which he encamped on the evening of October 1st; and on October 11th, when Stafford proved a traitor, almost 3000 men, women and children, perished, including seven Franciscans—namely, FF. Raymond and Peter Stafford, Richard and Paul Synnott, and John Esmonde, with two lay brothers, Didacus Cheevers, and James Rochford. Cromwell's chaplain, Hugh Peters, retired to Wales on October 14th, and he was subsequently executed with the other regicides. Bishop French subscribed the decrees of Clonmacnoise on December 12th, 1649, and was a "wanderer in woods and glens" till the last week of March, 1650.

Cromwell thus describes the recapture of Enniscorthy Castle by the Irish on January 2nd, 1650: "The enemy surprised Enniscorthy Castle in this manner: some Irish gentlemen feasted the [Puritan] soldiers, and sent in women to sell them strong water [whiskey], of which they drank too much; and then the Irish fell upon them, took the garrison, and put all the officers and soldiers to the sword." From Whitelocke we learn that four of the garrison, "who had betrayed the place for a sum of £7," were spared, but the Cromwellian Governor, Captain Todd, his wife, and all his men were put to death. The Protector, writing from Youghal to the gallant Hugh O'Neill on January 16th, 1650, undertook to release Captain Baggot, late Governor of Enniscorthy, "in exchange for the lieutenant of Dragoons, and the three soldiers of the same troop, belonging to Carrick."

¹ On August 25th, 1649, John Devereux and Thomas Rossiter wrote a letter from Wexford to Ormonde, regretting that they could not send him the required £276 0s. 8d. for the support of His Majesty's fleet. Father Meehan remarks that all these Franciscans, who were hanged at Wexford by Cromwell, belonged to the Ormonde faction. During the Confederate *regime* 1642—1649, there were two Nunneries established in Wexford—namely, a Convent for Poor Clares, and a Convent for Nuns of the Third Order of Franciscans.

The castles of Taghmon and the Deeps were re-taken by the Cromwellians in January, 1650; and Enniscorthy was recovered by Colonel Cooke, Governor of Wexford,¹ on March 1st, who also captured Brownswood Castle. On October 5th, 1650, Bishop French and Hugh Rochford, Recorder of Wexford, were appointed by the Irish Hierarchy to act as their procurators; and on April 7th, 1651, the Bishop and Sir James Preston were sent as ambassadors to the Duke of Lorraine, "to seek aid and protection for the Irish Catholics," with the result that £20,000 was forwarded at once. The last engagement in the County Wexford between the Confederates and the Puritans, was fought at Lambstown, in the parish of Whitechurch-Glynn, not far from Killurin, October 5th, 1650, in which the former were utterly defeated by Ireton, and the place is still known as the "Bloody Gap." Almost two years previously (October 8th, 1648) a fierce contest took place a mile outside Enniscorthy, in the spot now known as the "Bloody Bridge," when Sir Thomas Esmonde completely routed the forces of Glengarry. A gallant but fruitless resistance was made to the garrison of Enniscorthy,² and of the four brave brothers, FitzHenry, of Macmine Castle, but one escaped from the slaughter. Ireton died November 26th, 1651; and his widow married Fleetwood, who succeeded him as Lord Deputy.

Early in March, 1652, Colonel Charles Kavanagh and Captain Art MacDermot Kavanagh killed fifty Cromwellian troopers at Scarawalsh, three miles from Enniscorthy,

¹ Mr. John Cook, Chief Justice of Munster, brought Cromwell's and Ireton's baggage from Wexford to Kinsale on January 5th, 1650. "He and his party took a boat belonging to Mr. Codd, and rowed out to the ship *Hector*, which lay in the harbour." This Cook was afterwards hanged as a regicide.

² Kennedy, in the notes to his *Banks of the Boro*, gives the following version of the name "Bloody Bridge":—"This structure gets its name, if tradition can be depended on, from a fight between the garrison of Enniscorthy and a party headed by the renowned Daniel Jordan, one of Sarsfield's troopers. Jordan's men being victorious were on the point of setting the town on fire, but were dissuaded by the Catholic Bishop of Ferns." The disastrous battle of Worcester was fought September 3rd, 1651, and Charles II. fled.

and likewise carried a prey from Ross. They also plundered and demolished the town of Enniscorthy. In retaliation, the Roundheads made a fierce onslaught on the surrounding country; and, in *Whitelocke's Memorials*, under date of April 6th, 1652, we read: "Letters of the forces of the Parliament about Enniscorthy, *burning the corn, and, every morning, the houses they quartered in the night before*; killed and took many Irish; that he was an idle soldier who had not a veal, lamb, poultry, or all of them for his supper." The Leinster army of the Irish submitted on terms at Kilkenny, May 12th, 1652.

Among the hundreds who were "transplanted" to Connaught in 1652, the following names are met with in official records from the district around Enniscorthy: Jaspar Stafford, Milltown, Ferns; John Wadding, Bannow; Thomas Codd, Grange; Edmund Synnott, Garrynisk; Richard Hay and Richard Talbot, Milltown; Edward Butler, Cloghna-keera; Donogh O'Brien, St. John's; Dudley Colclough, Monart; Nicholas Byrne, Enniscorthy; Thomas Hovenden, Macmine; Richard Shorthall, Enniscorthy; Jasper Synnott, Cooladine; Christopher Furlong, Davidstown; Nicholas FitzHenry, Edermine; James Synnott, Teague Murphy, senr., Teague Murphy, junr., and Edmund Murphy, Templeshannon; John Devereux, the Deeps; Art Oge O'Brien, Killaligan; James Jordan, Enniscorthy; and Donogh Jordan, Mongan.

Father Daniel Delaney, parish priest of Arklow, was martyred at Gorey in 1653. About the Easter festival of the year 1654, "four Franciscans were arrested in Wexford, by Cromwellian officers, and hanged, without formality of trial, in the neighbourhood of their former convent." The venerable Daniel O'Brien, Dean of Ferns, was martyred on Holy Saturday, April 14th, 1655, as were also Fr. Luke Bergin, O. Cist., and Fr. James Murphy, a secular priest; and the three martyrs were interred in the graveyard of the old Franciscan Friary, Wexford. On November 27th, three priests, namely, FF. James Tuite, Robert Keegan, and John Foley, sixteen men and twenty-one women (all of the parish of Lackagh, Co. Kildare), were handed over to Captain Robert Coleman of Wexford, "to be delivered to the Governor of Waterford, who was ordered to give

them up to Captain John Norris, merchant, by him to be duly transported thence to the Barbadoes." In the same year, a ranter called Goode was appointed by Colonel Sadlier, Governor of Wexford, "to read the Word of God to the Irish of Wexford, as their minister."¹

In 1656 Robert Wallop, anticipating the coming storm, assigned the Manor, &c., of Enniscorthy to Timothy Stamp for three years, who reassigned his interest therein to John Morris, Robert Clayton, of London, Sir John Cutler, Thomas Yates, D.D., Sir Edward Heath, Didier Foucault, and others; and the case was heard before the Privy Council of Ireland on August 12th, 1657.²

Charles Fleetwood, Lord Deputy, wrote from Dublin Castle on August 20th, 1655, to the officers of the troops of Major Samuel Sheppard to be disbanded on the 1st of September, 1656, directing that those who were willing to settle in the barony of Shilmalier, County Wexford, should forthwith march and take possession of the lands allotted them for their arrears, "according to the rates agreed on by the committee and agents." As a proof that there was not a little discontent among the disbanded soldiers who came to County Wexford, we read that Lieut.-Col. Scott, in September, 1655, was arrested "for fomenting disturbances among the troops who had acquired lands in that county." As is well known, many of the Cromwellian soldiers sold their debentures for a mere bagatelle to their officers.

In the *Commonwealth Records* for the year 1657, there is a list of the Forfeiting Proprietors in Ireland, prefaced by a letter from Christopher Gough to the Council, dated January 27th, 1657. The confiscations of the "Papist Proprietors" in County Wexford are set forth as 621, of which there were fifty-two confiscations from the barony of Ballaghkeene, forty-two from Scarawalsh, and thirty from Bantry. Among the forty-two ancient proprietors of the

¹ On July 14th, 1654, Rowland Samuell was appointed Clerk to the Commissioners of Revenue at Wexford, *vice* William Moreton, "dismissed for marrying a Papist, whereby he hath made himself incapable of continuing in his said employment."

² By the Act of Settlement (1661—1665) John Morris and Robert Clayton were given "the iron works in Wexford, in trust for Sir John Cutler."

barony of Scarawalsh, in which Enniscorthy is situated, we meet with the names of Piers Butler, Dudley Colclough, Hugh MacMurrough O'Farrell, Lysagh MacMurrough O'Brien, Bartholomew O'Byrne, Daniel Doyle, Art MacMurrough Jordan, Sir Morgan Kavanagh, Edward FitzRowland Masterson, Edward FitzRobert Masterson, Richard Shortall, Edward Sinnott, David Sinnott, William Turner, Conogher MacTeague Jordan, Gerald O'Byrne, Richard Aylward, Joseph Farrell, Edmund Hore, Daniel Jordan, William Jordan, Teague MacDonogh Jordan, Colla MacWilliam O'Brien, Darby Kavanagh, Daniel Kavanagh, and others. In the adjoining barony of Bantry we find Dudley Colclough of Monart, Pierce Butler of Clough, Piers Butler of Kayer, Bryan MacCahir Kavanagh of Monamoling, William Deacon of Chapel, John Devereux of the Deeps, Morgan MacEdmond Kavanagh of Ballybane, Edward Sherlock of Bulganreagh, Butler, Lord of Galmoy, Edmund Hore, Christopher Furlong, Edward Sutton, &c.

On February 25th, 1658, Sir William Petty bought debentures belonging to the new Wexford planters amounting to £1000, whilst in other cases the soldiers were cheated out of their lands by their own officers, somewhat like the story of the "White Horse of the Peppers." In a few instances, an element of romance entered into the acquisition of the forfeited estates, wherein a Cromwellian soldier, by marrying the "daughter of the house," kept on the ancient patrimony in County Wexford.

The "worthy person" Wallop was, in 1661, sentenced to be drawn on a sledge under Tyburn gallows, but escaped execution, as he did not actually sign the document which condemned King Charles to the gallows. Pepys, in his classic diary, under date of January 27th, 1662, thus writes: "Going to take water upon Tower Hill, we met with three sledges standing there to carry my Lord Monson [William, Viscount Castlemaine], Sir Henry Mildmay, and another [Robert Wallop] to the gallows and back again, with ropes about their necks; which is to be repeated every year, this being the day of their sentencing the King." Wallop died in the Tower on November 16th, 1667.

On March 21st, 1664, the syndicate above mentioned, to

whom Wallop had assigned his County Wexford estates, including Enniscorthy, presented a petition to the King, in which they stated that "they had expended £30,000 upon iron works at the Forge, near Enniscorthy, on lands formerly belonging to Dudley Colclough, an Irish rebel," and prayed a clause in their favour to be introduced into the "Act of Explanation," which request was acceded to, and the clause inserted. By the Act of Settlement, the property of Robert Wallop in Killabeg, Clone, Tomsallagh, and Effernock, was settled on the Earl of Southampton, Lord Ashley, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, and Sir Henry Vernon. I may add that as late as the year 1667, the Duke of Ormonde reviewed the Puritan Leinster Militia on the Curragh.

Under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, Robert Carew and his wife Anne, daughter of Andrew Lynn of Ballinamona, County Waterford, were granted on July 8th, 1662, and again on February 15th, 1669, the lands of Rathgarogue, Chapel, and Tomfarney, 709 acres; and 291 acres in Clonroche and Ballymackesy, at a quit rent of £20 4s. 11½d., which, by patent of February 26th, 1678, was abated the sum of £9 8s. 11d. of above quit rent.

Richard Boyle, Dean of Limerick, was consecrated Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin on January 10th, 1667, and died at Leighlin in January, 1682. It is of antiquarian interest to mention that the Registry of the diocese of Ferns, in the Public Record Office, Dublin, commences at the year 1669. Sir William Petty, M.D., the author of the "Down" Survey, was one of the M.P.'s for Enniscorthy from 1661 to 1680.

ENNISCORTHY UNDER KING JAMES AND KING WILLIAM.



THE famous William Penn resided for a short time at Enniscorthy towards the close of the year 1665; and, Pepys, in his diary, under date of December 29th, 1667, tells how "Mr. William Penn, the Quaker, had recently returned from Ireland." In 1669, the founder of Pennsylvania published a booklet on the Quakers; and in the following year (1670) the first "National Meeting" of Irish Quakers was held at Dublin. However, such was the temper of the times against Non-conformists that, on May 30th, 1670, the Lord Lieutenant and Council sent an order directing that John Hall, Thomas Wight, John Workman, and others of the "Friends," be admitted to bail, who had been imprisoned at Cork. Soon after we find the Friends making their influence felt in the Enniscorthy district, but a fresh persecution broke out against all Dissenters in 1673.¹

Although the first regular "Presbytery," consisting of five ministers, had been formed at Carrickfergus, on June 10th, 1642, it was not until 1671 that Presbyterianism made much headway in Ireland. In 1672 a preacher was sent to Waterford, and subsequently congregations were formed at Duncannon, Enniscorthy, and Wexford. Francis Randall, a "planter" from Hampshire, who became a Quaker in 1673, established himself at the Deeps, the confiscated property of Philip Devereux (who died September 29th, 1650), and of his son John. This property lay almost opposite Killurin; and Francis Randall became one of the county families, having increased his "lot" by the purchase of additional lands near Macmine

¹ The Dublin "Friends" erected a Meeting House in Eustace Street, in 1692.

from Thomas Holmes, acting for Charles Collins, on January 7th, 1681.

Robert Osborne was appointed Protestant Dean of Ferns on April 12th, 1670; and on December 17th, 1675, Myles Sweeney was given the post of Rector of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy. He was the first rector who lived in Enniscorthy; and, as a further encouragement to reside permanently on the glebe lands in Templeshannon, the parishes of Enniscorthy, St. John's, Ballyhuskard, Templeshannon, and Clonmore were, on October 26th, 1678, ecclesiastically united by Act of Council.

Luke Wadding, the second son of Richard Wadding, a wealthy Wexford merchant, who was parish priest of New Ross, and Vicar-General of Ferns, was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Ferns on May 12th, 1671; and on the death of Bishop French, at Ghent, on August 23rd, 1678, he succeeded to plenary jurisdiction. At this date the Franciscan Friars possessed their old convent in Wexford, which was fast becoming ruinous; and two of them laboured in disguise around Enniscorthy.

On May 20th, 1680, Charles II. granted the castle of Ferns, and a large tract of land in North Wexford, to Arthur Parsons. In this grant the number of acres near Ferns was given as 1070, which, with the adjoining property, including Milltown and Ballymore, may be roughly estimated at 2000 acres. Dr. Narcissus Marsh, Provost of Trinity College, was consecrated Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin on May 6th, 1682, and resided in undisturbed retirement at Ferns Palace until 1688. On April 25th, 1682, Dr. Tobias Pullen was presented to the Deanery of Ferns, whence he was promoted to the Bishopric of Cloyne.

A license was granted to Patrick Colclough, on November 25th, 1683, "to hold a Market on Tuesdays, and two Fairs, on the Feast of the Assumption [August 15th], and the 27th of October, at the town of Mohurry. He was also granted the rectorial tithes of the parish of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy; and, to this day, the tithes, amounting to £53 6s. 4d. British, are paid by the Earl of Portsmouth to the Colcloughs of Tintern Abbey, County Wexford. Robert Carew of Ballyboro, near Enniscorthy, J.P. (since

1676), was appointed High Sheriff of County Wexford in 1686.

In 1685, Father Michael FitzHenry (ordained March 19th, 1685), was appointed parish priest of Enniscorthy and Templeshanbo; and on March 22nd, 1686, Bishop Wadding was granted a pension of £150 a year by King James, but died on December 1st, 1688, and was interred in the churchyard attached to the Franciscan Convent, Wexford, which had been re-built by Father Mark Cheevers, O.S.F., in 1686 (died 1689). Father Michael Rossiter was Vicar-Capitular of Ferns from 1689 to 1697.

From 1687 to 1689 Enniscorthy was fiscally governed by burgesses who were mostly Irish and Catholic, owing to King James's declaration of Indulgence on April 4th, 1687; Mr. John Jones being Sovereign or Portrieve of the town. During these two years, mainly owing to the appointment of Colonel Richard Talbot, Earl of Tyrconnell, as Viceroy, 10,000 Protestants from Leinster, including 800 from the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy, fearing the worst, fled north of the Boyne and joined their brethren, who seemed determined to stand by the usurping Prince of Orange. On March 12th, 1689, Prince William sent Colonel Cunningham and Colonel Solomon Richards with two regiments of foot from England to assist the garrison of Derry, where they landed on April 15th, with nine English vessels. This Solomon Richards had been one of the Cromwellian Commissioners for the precinct of Tipperary in 1653, and had also been Governor of Wexford, in which county he settled himself comfortably in a fine estate near Enniscorthy, called Solsborough (after himself) to this day, and which in this year, 1898, is even still lorded over by General Solomon Richards, his descendant. Though having a commission from King James as Colonel, in 1682, in which year he wrote an essay on the Barony of Forth, County Wexford, he was a noted Presbyterian; and in February, 1689, offered his services to Prince William.

On arriving in Lough Foyle on April 15th, 1689, Colonels Cunningham and Richards had an interview with Colonel Lundy, Governor of Derry, and as that individual advised them to go back again, the two brave (?) warriors left Derry on April 19th; and the two regiments were

sent back to England. It only concerns us at present to mention that, after the siege of Derry, Lundy, Cunningham, and Richards, were examined before a Committee of the House of Commons as to their desertion of Derry, with the result that the three of them were dismissed from His Majesty's service. Richards, after being deprived of his regiment, retired to Solsboro', still a charming spot, within two miles of Enniscorthy.

Messrs. James Devereux of Carrigmenan, and Dudley Colclough of Mohurry, were returned as representatives for the borough of Enniscorthy in the Parliament of King James, which opened on May 7th, 1689. Owing to an informality, the latter M.P. was replaced by Arthur Waddington, Portrieve of the town, and a Protestant; Walter Butler of Munfin, and Patrick Colclough of Mohurry, were the County M.P.'s; William Talbot and Francis Rothe represented Wexford Borough; Luke Dormer and Richard Butler, *New Ross*; Colonel James Porter and Captain Nicholas Stafford, *Fethard*; Abraham Strange of Toberduff, and Richard Doyle of Killorky, *Gorey*; *Bannow* returned Francis Plowden and Dr. Alexius Stafford; *Clonmines*, Edward Sherlock and Nicholas White of *New Ross*; and *Taghmon*, George Hore and Walter Hore.

Even before the landing of the Prince of Orange in Ireland (June 14th, 1690), the "ascendancy" party had resumed its sway in Enniscorthy, as we read that on November 12th, 1689, Edmund O'Loughlin, burgess, "was dismissed from office for taking market tolls for Robert Carew, Esq., said tolls being the property of the Portrieve [Arthur Waddington] and Burgesses."

There is a tradition that King James, in his flight after the battle of the Boyne, remained one evening in Enniscorthy Castle on his way to Waterford, and that, if not in the castle, he actually slept in the house now replaced by the stores of James Donohoe & Co., Limited, in Templeshannon. As a matter of fact the King did not stay a night in Enniscorthy, nor yet did he sail from Waterford, as Macaulay would have us believe, who quotes from Story.

On the evening of July 1st, 1690, King James rode to Dublin Castle, and, having feasted during the night, started in the grey dawn of the following morning, about

4.45 a.m., for Arklow, *viâ* Bray and the Wicklow Mountains. He halted at the house of a Mr. Hackett at Arklow, where he rested for two hours, and got fresh horses, after which he proceeded to Gorey, County Wexford, and thence through Ferns to Enniscorthy. As Enniscorthy itself was a "Williamite" stronghold, James did not dare to enter the town, and as yet there was no bridge over the Slaney. Consequently, the monarch and his *suite* having refreshed themselves in the hamlet of Templeshannon, rode on through Drumgoole, by the old Wexford road, to the Castle of the Deeps, where dwelt a worthy Quaker named Francis Randall before mentioned. We learn from the MS. *History of the Friends in Ireland*: "After getting some refreshment, Francis Randall sent his son [Samuel] with fresh horses to escort the King on his way to the fort of Duncannon, which he reached in safety. The King left a token of his gratitude, which is still in possession of his descendants." James II. reached Duncannon about sunrise on July 3rd, and got on board the *Lauzun de Malouin*, of twenty-eight guns, for France, *viâ* Kinsale, getting over the bar at Passage before the shades of night fell.

According to the London *Gazette* of July 14th, 1690, Colonel Butler, Lieutenant-Governor of County Wexford, "hearing that the late King James was gone on Wednesday last, posted after him, and from Duncannon wrote for his son to come to him, and to follow the late King into France." Such is the only accurate account of King James' flight to Duncannon Fort after the battle of the Boyne. His chaplain, Dr. Alexius Stafford, a secular priest of the diocese of Ferns, who had been promoted to the Deanery of Christ Church, Dublin, in 1689, was killed at Aughrim on July 22nd, 1691; and the Duke of Tyrconnell died suddenly on August 14th.

The Williamite confiscations in County Wexford amounted to 55,882 acres. A commission of enquiry, "to ascertain what persons were in rebellion in parts beyond the sea on February 13th, 1688," was held at Wexford, on March 12th, 1696, previous to which there were writs of exigent returned by a commission "in respect of indicted persons who were proclaimed from 1690 to 1691," at Wexford on September 7th, 1691. Another

commission, with the same object, was held at Wexford on November 2nd, 1696.

Bishop Marsh, who fled from Ferns in 1689, was promoted to be Archbishop of Cashel on February 26th, 1691, and he was succeeded by Dr. Bartholomew Vigers, Rector of St. Mary's, Wexford, and Dean of Armagh. On July 15th, 1696, a union was formed between the Presbyterian and Independent congregations of Munster and Leinster; and in 1697 the Irish congregations of Dissenters were placed under the care of seven presbyteries under one general synod, with the Rev. John M'Bride, of Belfast, as Moderator. A new arrangement took place in 1702, when nine presbyteries were formed, but early in March, 1704, a bill was passed which pressed equally hard on Nonconformists and Roman Catholics, who were declared unfit to fill any judicial or municipal offices.

On October 20th, 1702, the Portrieve and Burgesses of Enniscorthy ordered that the streets of the town should be paved. King William died in the previous March, and was succeeded by Queen Anne.

ENNISCORTHY, 1704—1795.



AT the General Sessions of the Peace, held at Wexford on July 11th, 1704, Father FitzHenry registered himself as Parish Priest of Enniscorthy and Templeshanbo, aged 43, residing at Sraughmore; his securities being Dudley Colclough of Mohurry, and Roger Talbot of Ballynagore. Similarly, Father Nicholas Doyle, aged 50, living at Ballyroe, near Enniscorthy, was duly registered as Parish Priest of Templeshannon, Ballyhuskard, Edermine, Ballynaslaney, Kilmallock, Kilpatrick, Artramont, and Tykillen; his securities being Robert Devereux of Carrigmenan, and Nicholas Turner of Inch.

In 1706 we read that there were numerous fires in the town, as nearly all the houses were thatched; and, in this year, some of the fires were evidently malicious, inasmuch as the Portrieve and burgesses offered a reward of £10 "for the discovery of the author of the fires at the houses of Henry Archer and Laurence Davis." A night watchman was appointed in 1707, one of whose duties was "to give the alarm in case of fire;" and each householder was ordered to have a barrel of water at his door in case of emergency. In fact, the civic fathers were of a "progressive" constitution, as they urged on all house occupiers to have brick chimneys instead of wooden; and they formed a Fire Brigade—amateur, of course—in which the "engines" consisted of "six large iron hooks and twelve buckets," as also ladders, poles, and chains.

In 1707, owing to the flagrant violation of the Treaty of Limerick, Catholics were reduced to the level of helots, and Dissenters were also persecuted; regarding which Defoe wrote a strong pamphlet, wherein he says that "the very people who drank deepest of the Popish fury are now linked with those very Papists they fought against." At

this time the manor, castle, friary, and most of the property in Enniscorthy was again acquired by the Wallops, partly through purchase and partly in exchange. In 1707, there is a record of a fine levied by Robert Carew, J.P., of the lands of Knocktown, Poulpeasty, Loughglass, Clonroche, and Ballymackesy, County Wexford. He died at Ballyboro on February 8th, 1708,¹ and was succeeded by his eldest son Robert, who changed the name Ballyboro to Castleboro. Bishop Rossiter of Ferns died, after much suffering, on October 4th, 1702, aged 83, and was buried in his ancestral tomb at Rathmacknee,² being succeeded by Dr. John Verdon. A few years later, the saintly Father George Watton, O.S.F., who had acted as Parish Priest of Clonmore, Ballyhogue, Killurin, and St. John's, from 1700 to 1714, died as a confessor, in Wexford jail, in 1720; and in 1718, a Portuguese Jew named Garcia, a notorious "priest-catcher," caused seven unregistered priests to be arrested, for which he was rewarded by the Crown with a sum of £500.

On June 24th, 1719, the Portrieve and Burgesses ordered the "commons" of Enniscorthy to be enclosed. Some years previously several Protestant palatine families settled in this neighbourhood, as did also a colony of "Friends," who located themselves near Vinegar Hill. Not many years after, some Ulster Presbyterians swelled the dissenting ranks, with the Rev. Mr. Foulkes as pastor; and thus three thrifty colonies were established. John Wallop, Lord of the Manor of Enniscorthy, was created Viscount Lymington and Baron Wallop on June 11th, 1720. Shortly before this time, Cornelius Donovan settled at Clonmore, which he had leased from our old Quaker friend Samuel Randall, of Randall's Mill and the Deeps.

During the summer of the year 1717, Father FitzHenry,

¹ His daughter Juliana was born November 30th, 1676, and had five husbands—namely, Mr. Otway, John Armstrong, Thomas Wray, Mr. Larne, and Mr. Greenshields of Graigue Clody, County Tipperary. She died November 27th, 1737. Her eldest brother and heir to the Castleboro estate, County Wexford, died in 1721.

² Another member of this family, Father Joseph Rossiter, O.S.A., re-established the Augustinian Friary of New Ross in 1710, and died February 18th, 1754, aged 73.

Parish Priest of Enniscorthy and Templeshanbo, paid the debt of nature ; and at a chapter of the Franciscan Order, held at Dublin, October 16th, 1717, Father Anthony O'Byrne was appointed Guardian of the Enniscorthy Convent and Parish Priest of the district. On the same day, Father Didacus Parle was appointed Guardian of New Ross,¹ but this venerable Friar, "who for five years preached before the Catholic King James," died at Wexford, February 16th, 1719. A bill was actually brought in by the Irish (?) Parliament of 1723, ordering most stringent enactments against Popery, including the castration of priests ; but it was properly rejected by the British Parliament. Father Comyn, O.S.A., who had lain for nearly a year in Wexford jail, was released in 1723, owing to the intervention of the King of Spain, and "was permitted to transport himself to Spain."

In 1721, Bishop Vigors, of Ferns and Leighlin, founded seven almshouses in Enniscorthy, on Summer Hill, for seven poor Protestant widows, who were each to receive £3 annually, the endowment being £900. He died on the 3rd of January, 1722, and was succeeded by Dr. Josiah Hort, Dean of Ardagh, who was consecrated on February 26th of the same year ; and after a rule of five years was translated to Kilmore and Ardagh on July 20th, 1727. At this date Pascal Ducasse, a Huguenot, was Dean of Ferns. Out of 131 parishes, which then constituted the diocese of Ferns, "seventy-one were in the hands of lay impropiators, twenty-eight were appropriated to various prebendaries, leaving only thirty-two in the possession of the working clergy ; and of those which were held by clergymen," as Lecky writes, "many were so poor that sixteen united only made a revenue of £60 a year."

Father O'Byrne, O.S.F., continued his ministrations among the Catholics of Enniscorthy from 1717—1729, in which latter year he was replaced by Father Columba Kavanagh, one of the MacMurrough family. Bishop Verdon died in 1729 ; and on September 26th of the same

¹ The Franciscan Convent, New Ross, was demolished in 1732, and, in a garden on its site were discovered, as Lewis writes, "various monuments sculptured with crosses, and bearing inscriptions in Norman French."

year, Father Ambrose O'Callaghan, O.S.F., was "provided" by the Holy See as Bishop of Ferns. Meantime, on July 19th, 1727, the Catholics of Ireland presented an address of loyalty to King George II.

On September 3rd, 1727, Dr. John Hoadley, Archdeacon of Salisbury and Canon of Hereford, was consecrated Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, but was promoted to the Archbishopric of Dublin on the 13th of January, 1730, whereupon Arthur Price, Bishop of Clonfort, was translated thither. From the "Report of the Lords' Committee, appointed to enquire into the state of Popery in Ireland in 1730," we find that "in the diocese of Ferns there were twenty-one old mass houses, and ten built since the accession of George I. [1714], besides three private chapels." The number of secular priests was returned as forty-four, and there were eleven movable altars, as also "two friaries with nine friars, and thirteen parish schools." In 1731, as appears from another official report, furnished by Bishop Price, there were twenty-seven Protestant clergy for 131 parishes in the diocese of Ferns, "some of whom were non-resident."

So great was the persecution against Roman Catholics from 1729 to 1734, that Bishop O'Callaghan, who resided at his convent in Wexford (of which he had been Guardian), had to assume the name of "*Dr. Walker*," and in many letters he subscribed his name as A. Walker. On August 26th, 1732, he appointed Dr. Nicholas Sweetman, Rector of St. Fintan's Church, Mayglass, as treasurer of Ferns; and on July 21st, 1736, he constituted him sole Vicar-General of the diocese, with delegated power to make a visitation. Two years later he appointed Father Thomas Ryan, O.S.F., Jubilate Lector of Theology, as Vicar-General of Ferns, who died on September 24th, 1740.

Bishop Price, of Ferns and Leighlin, was translated to Meath on February 4th, 1734, and was succeeded by Edward Synge, Bishop of Cloyne. However, his rule was short, and he was replaced by Dr. George Stone. In 1737, George Ogle was High Sheriff of County Wexford, and built the charming residence known as Bellevue, now occupied by Captain Cliffe. During the year 1738 and 1739, the "Kellymount Gang," a notorious band of robbers,

committed awful depredations around Enniscorthy, and had a regular den in the Ringwood, St. John's, but they broke up after the capture of their leader, John Brennan, who was killed January 7th, 1740. Bishop Stone of Ferns was translated to Kildare on March 19th, 1742, and was succeeded by William Cottrell, Dean of Raphoe, who died in England on June 21st, 1744.

Baron Wallop, on April 11th, 1743, was created Earl of Portsmouth, but never visited his Enniscorthy property. Between the years 1740 and 1745, some hundreds emigrated to America from County Wexford—an exodus which, unhappily, continued annually until recent years. On October 16th, 1747, Sir T. G. Southwell was returned as one of the M.P.'s for Enniscorthy, and in 1750 he was made Governor of the Castle of Limerick, subsequently created Viscount Southwell.

Bishop O'Callaghan died at the Franciscan Friary, Wexford, in 1744, and was succeeded by Dr. Nicholas Sweetman, who was "provided" to the see of Ferns by brief, dated January 25th, 1745. The premium given for transporting priests from Ireland ceased in 1746, but still bigotry prevailed to an alarming extent in County Wexford. At the Spring Assizes for the year 1748 (as we learn from Lecky), George Williams, who was accused of having "conformed" to the Roman Catholic religion, was sentenced "to be out of the King's protection, his lands and tenements, goods and chattels, to be forfeited to the King, and his body to remain at the King's pleasure."

In December, 1751, Bishop Sweetman was arrested, and brought a prisoner to Dublin Castle, on the testimony of an apostate priest, who averred that the Bishop of Ferns had enlisted soldiers for the Pretender. Now, as a matter of undisputed fact, we have it, on the authority of the Protestant Primate Stone, that "in the year 1747 (when the Pretender was defeated at Culloden), after a most searching examination of all the documents of that unhappy period, he could discover no trace whatever of any intercourse or correspondence between the Irish Catholics and the friends of the Pretender." As Plowden writes: "Not a single Irish Catholic, lay or clerical, was engaged, or even accused of being engaged, in that cause." The

real facts which led to Dr. Sweetman's arrest are briefly as follows: On September 8th, 1751, the bishop formally suspended and excommunicated three priests, viz., the Revv. James Doyle, Nicholas Neville, and Nicholas Collier, for notorious irregularities, especially for acting as "couple beggars," or performing clandestine marriages. The document is quoted in full by Lecky, and he adds that "it is one of the four or five documents relating to the subject as regards Roman Catholics preserved among the archives of the Irish Government." The bishop, on October 31st, commanded all the Catholic pastors in the diocese of Ferns "to read the said sentence publicly on three consecutive Sundays at each 'station' in the diocese;" and some days later James Doyle, one of the degraded clerics, gave information to the Castle, charging Bishop Sweetman with disloyalty and treason.

The good bishop was detained a prisoner for over a week, but, after a most trying cross-examination, no evidence whatever could be adduced to sustain the base slander, and he was honorably acquitted.¹ From this examination it appears that there were then thirty-two Catholic parishes in the diocese. "There was a Friary at Wexford, but it contained only three inmates." All the above facts, quoted by Lecky, are fully borne out in a letter written by Mr. Edward Hay of Ballinkee (died 1762), to Sir Arthur Gore, on December 4th, 1751.² To the historical student, it is of interest to add that there is preserved in the Public Record Office, Dublin, a large folio, containing a calendar of the presentments for County Wexford, ranging from 1744 to 1786, which was carefully indexed by Sir Bernard Burke in 1882.

Luke O'Toole of Fairfield, Enniscorthy, died in 1750, father of Laurence O'Toole of Buckstown and Fairfield.

¹ As late as the year 1767, Dr. MacKenna, Bishop of Cloyne, was arrested on the silly charge of abetting another "Popish Plot," but was almost immediately released.

² Sir Arthur Gore was created Baron Saunders of the Deeps, County Wexford, on the 15th August, 1758. His wife was Jane, daughter and heiress of Richard Saunders, of Saunders' Court, County Wexford, and relict of William Worth. He was made Earl of Arran on April 12th, 1762.

About this time the famous barrister, Sir Toby Butler, lived at Mountfin or Munfin, near Enniscorthy. Some miles farther on is the charming village of Buncloody, or Newtown Barry, which subsequently fell into the hands of the Maxwells, by the marriage of John Maxwell to Judith, daughter and heir of James Barry. He was created Baron Farnham on May 6th, 1756, and died on August 6th, 1759.

Enniscorthy began to assume the dignity of an important corporate town from about the year 1754. However, there was as yet no bridge over the Slaney, and the old ferry was in full swing. Inasmuch as the town proper was looked on as the inheritance of *English* Protestants, the natives were relegated to *Irish* Street. Although the Franciscan Friary was in splendid preservation, the two friars who then laboured in the neighbourhood had to go in disguise. A little thatched chapel in Drumgoole served as a place of worship for the persecuted Catholics. It was a modest structure, and occupied the site of the present barn (Bolger's barn), now belonging to Mr. Sullivan, in *Chapel Lane*. *Stat nominis umbra!* Strange as it may appear, as late as 1758 "the law did not presume a papist to exist in the kingdom;" and it was only on December 10th, 1759, that "the *existence* of persons calling themselves Catholics" was officially recognised in Ireland. At this date there were about two dozen families in County Wexford who professed Presbyterianism, Methodism, or Quakerism. The "Catholic Committee," which was formed in 1757, collapsed in 1763.

On August 14th, 1755, Mrs. Bedelia Sweeney of the Manor House, Enniscorthy, was awarded a premium of £2, by the Royal Dublin Society, "for raising a quarter of a pound of good saffron." For the benefit of the present generation, it is as well to explain that the "Manor House" is now replaced by the "Abbey House" (Mr. Donohoe's), and the house adjoining (Mr. Webster's), in Templeshannon. In 1758, Bishop Garnett, of Ferns and Leighlin, was translated to Clogher, and had as successor Dr. Richard Robinson, who was promoted to Kildare in 1761, after whom came Dr. Charles Jackson.

In 1760, Bishop Sweetman appointed the learned Jesuit,

Dr. Cassin, as Parish Priest of Ferns, and Vicar-General of the diocese, in succession to his uncle, Father Verdon, S.J. It appears that Father Verdon came from the Archdiocese of Armagh, and brought his sister with him to Ferns, where she acted as a ministering angel over the little chapel and household, and married Mr. John Cassin, the father of the Rev. Dr. Cassin, S.J. Ferns Castle and the Manor of Ballymore were at this date the property of Captain Richard Donovan, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Major Edward Rogers of Bessmount, Enniscorthy. His sister Juliana married Richard, sixth Earl of Anglesey¹ (who thus acquired Camolin Park, in 1741), and he died July 15th, 1768.

Father Bonaventure Page, O.S.F., ex-Provincial, who laboured for a time in Enniscorthy, died at Wexford, July 16th, 1761. In 1764, we find Father Wickham as Parish Priest of Enniscorthy. He lived in Templeshannon, in the house now occupied by Mr. Peter Kelly, on the way to the Mercy Convent, beyond which was the Catholic chapel, then the only place of worship for the professors of the ancient creed in and around Enniscorthy. About this time, a wooden float, or raft, did temporary duty for a connecting link over the Slaney between Enniscorthy and Templeshannon.

The borough of Enniscorthy was formally sold on May 29th, 1766, by Adam Colclough of Duffrey Hall, to Vesey Colclough of Tintern, "for the just and lawful sum of three thousand pounds sterling." This Adam Colclough was Portrieve of Enniscorthy, and held the borough, as well as the tithes of the parish, of Enniscorthy; but by this deed, he not only sold the municipality, but also the office of Portrieve, to his cousin Vesey—the other burgesses being Rev. Thomas Colclough, Richard Colclough, Cæsar Colclough, Michael Byrne, John Jervis White, B. Thomas, Henry Colclough, and John Hatton.

A little fly-sheet, named the *Wexford Journal*, was started in 1767, and it was issued weekly. At this date,

¹ In 1761, Richarda, daughter of the sixth Earl of Anglesey, married Robert Phayre of Templeshannon, Enniscorthy; and her sister Juliana married Sir Frederick Flood.

the celebrated Richard Marlay was Dean of Ferns, a preferment then valued at £300 a year. In 1761, he had taken the part of *Lockbit*, in the "Beggar's Opera" (performed at Carton, County Kildare), for which he wrote and spoke the prologue; and he was promoted to the Bishopric of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh in 1787. Dr. Joseph Deane Bourke was appointed Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin in 1772; and, in 1776, the vicarage of Ferns was united by Act of Council to the rectory of Kilbride.

Vesey Colclough was Portrieve of Enniscorthy from 1766 to 1776; and on March 26th, 1775, he raised the first volunteer corps in Ireland, with Arthur Phayre as captain. His example was soon after followed by Isaac Cornock; and in 1776, the Enniscorthy volunteers were a very respectable contingent. At the Parliament, which was summoned on June 11th, 1776, Messrs. Frederick Flood of Slaney Lodge, and R. Mountiford Longfield, represented the borough of Enniscorthy. Apropos of this latter M.P., Mr. D. Owen-Madden, in his *Revelations of Ireland*, thus writes: "Richard M. Longfield [created Viscount Longueville in 1800] won, at hazard, from Sir Cæsar Colclough a seat for Enniscorthy for his life, and a seat for another borough, from Sir John Hamilton, for the same term." About this time, too, the noted "buck" and duellist, Beauchamp Bagenal, M.P. for Carlow, from 1760 to 1782, lived near Enniscorthy. Among his exploits are recounted "a fight with a prince; refusing the hand of a princess; eloping with a duchess; and making the Doge of Venice drunk."

On St. Patrick's Day, 1777, Father Wickham, who had endeared himself to all classes by his zeal and charity, was brutally assaulted by a drunken Orangeman, and died, within a fortnight, at his house in Templeshannon. He was succeeded, as Parish Priest of Enniscorthy, by Father William Synnott, who built a chapel at the end of Irish Street, on the spot now occupied by the dwelling-house of Miss Murphy, Island Road, and portion of the adjoining establishment of Mr. Aidan Doyle. Not a vestige of this first post-reformation chapelry now exists, although fifty years ago it was in tolerable preservation. The site of this humble, L-shaped chapel, and its ancient holy water stoup

(still preserved) were objects of interest to Monsignor (the late Cardinal) Persico, Papal Nuncio, on his visit to the town in 1888.

The earliest published print of Enniscorthy—as far as is known—is a steel engraving, taken from an oil painting by P. Sandby, R.A., formerly in the possession of Lord Portsmouth, “published by authority of Parliament on May 2nd, 1778.” This engraving, delineated by T. Cooke, was issued by G. Kearsley, 46 Fleet Street, in 1778, and may be seen in the Estate Office, Enniscorthy; but the original painting was, unfortunately, burned in the fire which took place at Hurstbourne Park, in 1887. In it are plainly seen the fine Norman Castle, the magnificent friary, and the *old* stone bridge which had been built, in 1775, by two brothers named Oriel, natives of Hampshire. These two brothers settled permanently in County Wexford, and built Carley’s bridge in 1780, called after Mr. Carley.

In 1773, the “Catholic Committee” was re-established, which resulted in the passing of a small measure of Catholic relief on June 20th, 1778. Bishop Sweetman was again suspected of disloyalty in 1779, because he had subscribed to the Wexford Independent Volunteers; but the temper of the times was too much for the Irish Government, as the Volunteers then numbered 60,000, and, moreover, the influential Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Troy, made representations on his behalf to the Viceroy. In the correspondence of Archbishop Troy there are numerous letters showing his deep affection for Bishop Sweetman, although they differed on the question of the Test Oath. His Grace of Dublin writes thus to his brother of Ferns on April 1st, 1779: “On Monday last I took the oath. I fancy you will think this an odd preparation for Easter.” Previously he had written: “As neither turncoats, turncoat makers, or any other denomination of miscreants, can cause an alteration in my sincere regard for you, I sit down to wish you from my heart many happy returns of the approaching holy season, with every desirable blessing, and heaven in reversion. It gives one pleasure to find by your last agreeable favour of the 4th ultimo, that you regard our difference of opinion relative to the Test in a political sense, without suspecting my orthodoxy.” Bishop Sweetman was

quite right regarding the Test ; but a further trouble was in store for him by the death of his coadjutor, Dr. John Stafford, on October 1st, 1781, who was buried in St. Fintan's Church, Tacumshane, not far from Lady's Island.

I have now before me a tattered volume of the *Gentleman's and Citizens' Almanack* for 1779, the Earl of Buckingham being Lord Lieutenant of Ireland ; wherein we find it chronicled that George Ogle and Vesey Colclough were M.P.'s for County Wexford, a county which altogether returned eighteen members to the Irish House of Commons. It is memorable that the two Clerks of the Parliament were Henry Alcock, of Wilton, and Shapland Carew, of Castleboro, both from County Wexford. The Vicar-General for the united dioceses of Ferns and Leighlin was Dr. Stephen Radcliffe, and the Registrar was Robert Stafford. There were then three governors of the county, namely, the Earl of Ely, Viscount Valentia, and George Ogle of Bellevue ; whilst Lord George Bertie was Governor of Duncannon Fort, with Sir Thomas Heron, Bart., as Deputy, or Fort Major. A veritable pluralist was the Rev. John Nixon, who was Portrieve of the borough towns of Bannow, Clonmines, and Fethard ; and John Lees had the sinecure of Searcher, Packer, and Gauger of Wexford, being also Secretary and Comptroller of the General Post Office. The rate of postage for inland letters was 1d. for any one stage ; 2d. not exceeding forty English miles ; and 4d. for any distance over forty miles ; which only permitted a solitary sheet of paper,—a proportionally high rate being charged in the case of “double and treble letters ;” but, if paid for by weight, “at the rate of one ounce for four single letters.” American letters were despatched from London the first Wednesday of every month. All members of Parliament had permission to have their letters “franked,” a concession which was largely availed of by the friends of members, who very often got their letters in that way. Enniscorthy had a mail coach, which came thrice a week from Dublin ; the distance being estimated at forty-eight Irish miles. I may add that the owner of this ancient *Almanack* marked down in ink before each day of the year's calendar the actual state of the weather, making it a sort of weather diary ;

and he adds, under date of Michaelmas, 1779: "Thirty turbot taken by the boat at Pouldarrig," near Enniscorthy.

On February 11th, 1778, Rev. Joshua Nunn was appointed Rector of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy. About this time, the ancient ruined church of Kilcarbery (*Cill-Cairbre*), near Enniscorthy, was almost levelled to the ground; and some years later the well-known Mill of Kilcarbery was built. Lovers of archæology will be interested to know that the stone chancel, arch, and lintels of this Hiberno-Romanesque Church, are incorporated in the present mill; and so, the memory of St. Cairpre survives. The wooden bridge of Scarawalsh was built by the Oriel Brothers in 1781.

Dr. James Caulfield, Parish Priest of New Ross, was consecrated Coadjutor Bishop of Ferns on July 7th, 1782, by Archbishop Carpenter, assisted by Bishop Troy and Dean Downes of Ferns, and obtained permission from the Holy See to hold his parish *in commendam*. With the Volunteers in full swing, Catholicity began to raise its head in the diocese of Ferns. In 1783, a grand military review of the County Wexford Volunteers was held at Johnstown Castle, by Cornelius Grogan, M.P. for Enniscorthy; and on September 8th of the same year, the second annual meeting of the Volunteers assembled in Dungannon Presbyterian Church, on which occasion 500 delegates were present, representing 278 companies, and 18,000 men,¹ under the presidency of Col. James Stewart; the most prominent figure being the magnificent Earl of Bristol, Bishop of Derry.

The aged Bishop Sweetman died at Wexford on October 19th, 1786, aged 86, and was interred in the churchyard of Clongeen, where there is an inscribed tomb—now undecipherable—to his memory. Dr. Caulfield then succeeded, *jure successionis*; and his first public appearance as bishop was at the obsequies of Bishop O'Keefe of Kildare and Leighlin, at Carlow, on September 19th, 1787.

Walter Cope, Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, completed

¹By proclamation of March 11th, 1793, the Irish Volunteers were forbidden to parade or appear in military array.

the splendid episcopal palace at Ferns¹ in May, 1787, but died in the ensuing August, whereupon Bishop Preston of Killala and Achonry was translated thither. In the winter of 1787, the old wooden bridge of Scarawalsh was swept away, and was replaced by the present stone bridge, built in 1790, by the brothers Oriel of Enniscorthy. Owing to the continued disturbances of the "Rightboys" in 1787 and 1788, a large barracks was ordered to be built on the spot now occupied by two dwelling-houses on the Island Road, at the end of Slaney Street,² though, of course, Island Road was then unknown. The venerable Jesuit, Dr. David Cassin, P.P. of Ferns, and Vicar-General of the diocese, died July 16th, 1786, and was succeeded in the pastorate by his nephew, Father Edward Redmond. Father Henry O'Keeffe, P.P. of Killan, near Enniscorthy, died February 20th, 1790, whereupon Bishop Caulfield appointed Father Michael Ennis to the vacancy.

There was a most interesting sketch of County Wexford, in August, 1790, written by a Protestant gentleman to a friend in Wales, which was published in *Walker's Hibernian Magazine* for November, 1790, and the following excerpt is very graphic:—

"Gorey, or Newborough, is a borough, market, and post-town, forty-three miles from Dublin, and about three from the Irish Channel, in a most beautiful and fertile country, but has nothing worthy of the observation of a traveller. Near it are two handsome seats, viz., Clonattin, that of Major Ram, the demesne of which is highly improved and laid out in the very best manner; and Ramsfort, the seat of Stephen Ram, Esq., where is an elegant modern built house, well situated, and commanding an extensive view, and having a noble deer-park (finely stocked) of 400 acres, well wooded and watered. Leaving Gorey, I passed on

¹ The former palace, which was burned in 1643, had been erected by Bishop Ram in 1630, who placed over the portico the following quaint distich:—

"This house Ram built for his succeeding brothers;
Thus sheep bear wool, not for themselves, but others."

² This barrack was built in 1790, as is evident from an inscribed slab (still to be seen in the modern building) on which we read, "1790, J.S."

through Clough, a sorry village, to Camolin, another village, near which the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Valentia has an elegant seat called Camolin Park. This elegant mansion is situated in a fine extensive park, containing about 700 acres, finely wooded and watered. The house (which is of very ancient date, is a magnificent and stately building, and opposite the principal entrance is a fine sheet of water.

“Next to Ferns, the see of a bishop, united to that of Leighlin since the year 1600. . . . Here are the ruins of a fine castle, which is said to have been built by Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, many years before the conquest of this kingdom; also a handsome Cathedral church, with a monument of Mogue, the first Bishop of Ferns. The palace is a noble building, erected a few years since [1786] by the late Dr. Cope, then bishop. The house and offices are the completest and best finished of any episcopal building in Ireland, and what is singular, the house is covered with copper, the first attempt of this kind in the kingdom. There is also a handsome Glebe House, wherein the Rev. Samuel Hayden resides.

“From Ferns I rode to Scarawalsh, where the masons were building an elegant bridge over the beautiful river Slaney, the old one having been swept away by the inundation in the year 1787, and then proceeded by the side of the river to Enniscorthy, passing near Killabeg, the seat of Solomon Richards, Esq. [Solsboro], and the Glebe, the seat of the Rev. Joshua Nunn.

“Enniscorthy is a handsome town, pleasantly situated on each side of the river Slaney, and joined by a large stone bridge of six arches. This river is deep enough to admit of gabbards plying between this and Wexford, distant fourteen miles. On an eminence near the river is a *fine old castle*, and near it is the parish church. I slept this night in Enniscorthy, and jogged on the next morning to Wexford, where I breakfasted.”

A very tolerable water-colour drawing of Enniscorthy “from the North,” as it appeared in 1791, is now in the reading room of the Church Institute. It was taken, as is written on the back of the frame, “on the spot, by George Duncan, Lieut. Royal Artillery, 1791.” Although the work is somewhat amateurish, it gives a very fair idea of

the town. From 1789 to 1792 there was great friction between the townspeople and burgesses of Enniscorthy, principally owing to the tyrannical conduct of the Sovereign or Portrieve, Rev. William Sutton. A meeting of the inhabitants was held in the autumn of the year 1792, and a resolution was carried to call on the reverend Portrieve—the nominee of the Colcloughs—to pay more attention to the duties of his office, and to adopt more equitable proceedings in the fiscal government of the town.

The Catholic Relief Bill, which was introduced on January 25th, 1792, by Sir Hercules Langrishe, was defeated by 208 votes to 23. In reference to the newly-introduced bill for relieving certain Catholic disabilities by Major Hobart, in February, 1793, the Right Hon. George Ogle, of Bellevue, near Enniscorthy, better known to posterity as the author of *Molly Asthore*, said: “I have always thought I would rather lay my head on the block than consent to a union [between England and Ireland], but, *I declare before the Almighty, I would rather pass an Act of Union than the Bill before the House.*” A meeting of the Catholics of County Wexford was held at Enniscorthy on July 29th, 1792, to elect delegates to the Catholic convention; and the five gentlemen who actually presented the petition for Catholic relief to the King, on January 2nd, 1793, were Sir Thomas French, Mr. Edward Byrne, Mr. John Keogh, Mr. James Edward Devereux, and Mr. Christopher Dillon Bellew. This Bill received the royal assent on April 9th of the same year.

The Wexford Militia, the old 38th, or the “Yellow Bellies” (so called from the colour of their facings), were enrolled, in 1793, with the Marquis of Ely as Colonel in command. In June of the same year a sanguinary engagement took place at Enniscorthy, in consequence of an armed mob, who rose to prevent the enrolment of the Militia. A few weeks later, namely, on the first Sunday of July, a man was caught swearing-in some persons as “Whiteboys” in Davidstown chapel-yard, and was brought a prisoner to Enniscorthy (four miles distant), but was released next day. On July 10th, two more suspected persons (who had been arrested at Scarawalsh by Mr. Maxwell, of Newtownbarry), charged with forming part of

a riotous mob at Scoby, near Davidstown, were sent to Wexford jail, whereupon a party of their friends assembled the day following, and determined to go *en masse* to effect their liberation. For this purpose, about 200 peasants rendezvoused at the Fair Green of Windmills Hill, outside Wexford, on July 11th, and an engagement took place between them and a detachment of the 56th regiment, under Major Vallotten, in which the veteran major was mortally wounded by John Moore with a scythe, and died three days later. Not a man was killed on the side of the military. Captain Boyd, of the Wexford Militia, then came on the scene, and lay in ambush for the retreating peasantry at Bettyville, who were mostly cut down. Out of the eight prisoners who were left, one died from the effect of his wounds, and two turned informers; the remaining five were tried at the Wexford Assizes on July 26th, and were executed. To this day a huge monument stands on the Windmills Hill commemorative of this unhappy incident. Of course, as was then customary, a great part of the blame was laid to the credit of the Roman Catholics, and accordingly, on July 30th, a mass meeting of the County Wexford Catholics passed several strong resolutions of their unswerving loyalty to the Crown. I may add that the famous "Catholic Committee" met for the last time in May, 1795.

At this date there were 174 members of Parliament nominated by the aristocracy of Ireland for "rotten boroughs," fifty of whom were elected by the burgesses, almost every burgess being a tool of the landlord, and bound, hand and foot, to vote just as the lord of the manor wished. Such were the boroughs of Enniscorthy, Fethard, Bannow, Gorey, and Clonmines, in County Wexford.

THE INSURRECTION OF 1798.



ON the 12th of October, 1791, Theobald Wolfe Tone (assisted by Thomas Russell and Samuel Nelson) founded the Society of United Irishmen at Belfast, whose first triumph was the Catholic Relief Bill of 1792. This was followed by the Dungannon Convention of February 15th, 1793, under the presidency of William Sharman, which compelled a further Relief Bill, the justice of which may be gauged from the fact that, whilst the Catholics then numbered 3,000,000, the Protestants were only 500,000. However, by a majority of sixty-nine, they were still debarred from sitting in Parliament, or occupying any of the higher Government offices; the Right Hon. George Ogle again distinguishing himself by his opposition.

In April, 1794, an interview was brought about between Wolfe Tone and Marcus Beresford, by Peter Burrowes, King's Counsel (who was connected by marriage with the County Wexford); and in May, the Dublin United Irishmen were suppressed by the Crown, with the result that it became a secret society. As if to goad the Irish people into insurrection, the estimable Viceroy, Earl FitzWilliam, was recalled in March, 1795, and was succeeded by Earl Camden, who arrived on March 30th. James Edward Devereux of Carrigmannon, and Edward Hay of Ballinkeele, presented a petition to George III. on April 22nd, 1795, in favour of a Catholic Relief Bill, signed by 22,251 inhabitants of County Wexford.

On February 4th, 1796, the Rev. Robert Burrowes was appointed Protestant Archdeacon of Ferns; Dr. Eusebius Cleaver being Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin. At the same date, the Rev. Joshua Nunn was Rector of Enniscorthy, and Shapland Sweeney, Curate. The great wooden bridge of Wexford was finished by Cox in 1795. It was 1554 feet long by 34 feet in breadth. In the following year,

Cox built another wooden bridge at New Ross, 510 feet long, with a causeway of 150 feet, at a cost of £11,200. As a matter of social interest, I may add that on June 28th, 1796, Lord Valentia and Mr. Gawler fought a duel, in which the former was slightly wounded.¹ In addition to duelling, illicit distillation was pretty common at this epoch in County Wexford, and twenty "stills" were seized between the years 1792 and 1796.

From the year 1775, the seeds of Orangeism had been slowly but surely bearing fruit; but the Battle of the Diamond (near Loughgall), on September 21st, 1795, when forty-eight Catholics were killed, showed clearly the tendency of the Orange Society. This hated society soon found its way into County Wexford in 1796, and a corps of Yeomanry, mostly Orangemen, were formed before the close of the same year. In January, 1797, there were eight regiments of the British army in Ireland, with twenty fencible corps and the Invalides, amounting to 9000 strong, with Militia numbering 15,900; and the *Habeas Corpus* Act was suspended, consequent on the failure of the Bantry Bay expedition.

From a *Relatio*, which Bishop Caulfield wrote in 1796, the following is undoubtedly interesting:—

"The diocese of Ferns is thirty-eight miles long and twenty broad, with eight borough towns, which return each two members to Parliament, namely, Wexford, Ross, Enniscorthy, Taghmon, Fethard, Clonmines, Bannow, and Gorey.² The see has a chapter of nineteen members, namely, five dignitaries, Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, and Archdeacon; four Canons (*de officio, ut vocantur*), namely, Doctoralis, Theologalis, Lectoralis, and Poenitentiarius; and ten Prebendaries, namely, Kilrane, Fethard, Edermine, Taghmon, Kilrush, Toome, Clone, Whitechurch, Crosspatrick, and Coolstuffe. It had 143 parishes, but now only thirty-six parish priests, and some of them without curates.

¹ Arthur, Viscount Valentia, was created Earl of Mountmorris on December 20th, 1793. He was the only son of the sixth Earl of Anglesey.

² Although the place-name *Gorey* had been changed by Bishop Ram to that of *Newborough*, the older name was resumed from the year 1780.

It had seventeen monasteries of Canons Regular of St. Austin ; three Priories of Templars, afterwards Knights of St. John of Jerusalem ; one Benedictine Priory at Glas-carrig ; two Cistercian Abbeys—Dunbrody and Tintern ; three Observantine Franciscan Convents—Wexford, Ross, and Enniscorthy ; two Priories of Austin Eremites—Ross and Clonmines ; and one Carmelite Friary. It never had any Nunnery.

“There are now only four *hospitia* or houses of Regulars, namely, a Franciscan Convent at Wexford, with six friars leading a community life, and using a public church, which is also parochial ;¹ one of Austin Eremites at Ross, with a public chapel of their own, the number of friars being two or three ; another of Austin Eremites, near Clonmines, with only one friar ; and one of Carmelites, at Little Horetown, with only one friar ; neither of these two last-mentioned has a chapel.” . . .

Incidentally, the Bishop mentions that there had not been a synod held since his appointment “for fear of the gentry and the Protestants ;” and, he was never a week absent from his diocese “except once, for two months, at Lucan Spa.” He had given vestments and ornaments to the church of New Ross, and to other chapels, and had assisted in the building of some churches, notwithstanding that his income was small, “hardly adequate for his support, and the livery of two horses for himself and servant.” The population of Ferns diocese is given as 120,000, of which “there are at least 114,000 Catholics ;” and the total number of priests, including Regulars, was eighty. “Conferences are held in Ferns from April to November, attended by all the seculars, generally by the friars, and often presided over by the Bishop.”

Dr. Caulfield gives an alarming account of the “White-boys,” “Rightboys” and “Defenders,” whom he had frequently denounced and threatened with excommunication ; and he gives a minute account of the proceedings

¹ In 1791, the Franciscan Friars opened a school in Gibson’s Lane, Wexford, of which the president was Father Patrick Lambert, O.S.F., who was appointed first Bishop of Newfoundland in 1806. Father John Ivory, Guardian of Wexford Convent, died December 15th, 1793.

which led to the killing of Major Vallotten in 1793. This *Relatio* was dated February 3rd, 1796. As a result of the Bishop's vigilance, we find that, in 1797, according to the testimony of Myles Byrne, throughout the County Wexford, "disputes, fighting at fairs and other places of public meeting, had completely ceased."

In consequence of the rumours of a numerous body of the "United Irishmen" having been sworn in in County Wexford, during the summer of 1797, a proclamation was issued by the Viceroy, "proclaiming" portion of said county on July 17th. The famous General Hoche died September 19th, and this was the end of the French expedition to aid the Irish patriots. The humane Sir Ralph Abercrombie, within a week after his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the English forces in Ireland, in succession to Lord Carhampton, discovered the nefarious plans of Castlereagh to "explode" an insurrection;¹ and on February 26th, 1798, he severely censured the disgraceful conduct of the military, for which Castlereagh insisted on Lord Camden calling on him to retract his words. The old warrior, with fifty years of good service, sooner than yield an inch, when he saw such an attempt to cloak the outrageous doings of the army, sent in his resignation, and after a parleying of two months it was accepted April 23rd. He was replaced by the infamous General Lake, afterwards Lord Lake of Delhi.

On January 18th, 1798, the Catholic chapel of Ballinamona was burned by the Yeomanry, and on April 12th, a proclamation was issued by the Lord Lieutenant, declaring the County Wexford to be in a state of disturbance. On April 23rd, it was announced by Castlereagh that two regiments of Hessians had been ordered to Ireland to

¹ Sir Jonah Barrington says that "Mr. Pitt counted on the expertness of the Irish Government *to effect a premature explosion.*" The resignation of Sir Ralph Abercrombie was closely followed by the departure of Mr. Secretary Pelham, "who also disapproved," as Mitchel writes, "of the new plan of prematurely exploding the rebellion by the simple machinery of goading the people to despair." His successor was the notorious Castlereagh. Abercrombie had described the soldiery as "in a state of licentiousness, which must render them formidable to everyone but the enemy."

aid the forces in that country, which then numbered 120,000 men.

Long before the so-called "rebellion" of '98, unheard of atrocities had been committed by the English troops in Ireland. Even in loyal and industrious County Wexford, the peasants were tortured and massacred indiscriminately. As Myles Byrne¹ writes: "Archibald Hamilton Jacob, and the Enniscorthy Yeomen Cavalry, never marched out of the town without being accompanied by a regular executioner, with his ropes, cat-o'-nine-tails," &c. Other petty local tyrants were Hawtry White, Hunter Gowan, Solomon Richards, and the Rev. Roger Owens. On May 24th, Garret Fennell and James Darcy were shot in cold blood by the Yeos under Hunter Gowan, "and were waked that night in the chapel of Monaseed [near Gorey], where the unhappy women and children assembled to lament their slaughtered relatives." The Yeomanry Cavalry here alluded to was the newly-formed one of Gorey, as previously Messrs. Ford of Ballyfad, Beaumont of Hyde Park, and Anthony Perry of Inch (Perry Mount), would not take part in any such iniquitous proceedings; and Mr. Edward FitzGerald of New Park, a large landowner, was arrested and imprisoned on no specific charge. But the mere recital of these events, which occurred before the so-called rebellion, would be gruesome and wearisome.

We have it on the best authority that Bishop Caulfield, Rev. John Corrin, P.P., Rev. John Broe, O.S.F., Rev. William Synnott, Parish Priest of Enniscorthy, Rev. John Redmond, Rev. John Murphy, and others of the Catholic clergy, did all in their power to repress any outrages on the part of a peaceful peasantry goaded to desperation. It is only within the scope of the present little work to take a cursory view of the insurrection as far as it concerns the district around Enniscorthy, but those interested in the general subject will find ample material in the pages of Gordon, Maxwell, Teeling, Plowden, Cloney, Jackson, O'Kelly, Hay, Taylor, and Kavanagh. The lying publication, known as Musgrave's "*Memoirs of the different Rebellions in Ireland*," with a particular detail of that which

¹ Myles Byrne died at Paris, January 24th, 1862.

broke out on the 23rd of May, 1798," was ably replied to by Bishop Caulfield, Plowden, and others, and was even repudiated by Lord Cornwallis.

On Tuesday, May 22nd, thirty-four men were shot without a trial at Dunlavin, County Wicklow ; and on May 24th, Enniscorthy was the scene of the first execution in County Wexford for treason. That same night, Archibald Hamilton Jacob, in charge of the Enniscorthy Cavalry, of which Solomon Richards was Colonel, marched to Ballaghkeen, "and plied the lash with such vigour that the spot of execution appeared as if a pig had been killed there." On May 25th, twenty-eight (some say thirty and thirty-two) farmers were imprisoned in Carnew, on the borders of County Wexford, and were cruelly shot the following morning by a drunken Orange gang ; the Rev. Mr. Pope presiding at the butchery. Father Dixon, Parish Priest of Castlebridge, near Wexford, who is described as "a most inoffensive clergyman," was transported from Duncannon¹ merely "on suspicion of treason," on May 26th. On the same day, John and Patrick Redmond were shot in cold blood by the Newtownbarry Yeomanry Cavalry, at the cross roads of Ballycarney.

Edward Hay tells us that on Saturday morning, May 26th, Mr. Turner, J.P., and himself, went to the house of Edward FitzGerald of Newpark, with a view of taking up all weapons from suspected persons, and receiving the oath of allegiance, a proceeding which occupied all the day. That same day, over twenty houses, occupied by respectable peasants, in the parish of Boolavogue, were committed to the flames by the soldiery. However, in retaliation, a number of the Camolin Cavalry, as also John Donovan of

¹ Father Dixon was tortured and lashed to a fearful degree at New Geneva, near Passage, which was a most pestiferous prison. From the pages of Cardinal Moran's monumental work on the *Catholic Church in Australia*, we learn that it was only on April 19th, 1803, that Father Dixon and his fellow prisoner, Father James Harold, were permitted by the Government to exercise their functions as priests. The latter then went to Norfolk Island, and Father Dixon remained at Sydney. However, at the close of the year 1807, he was replaced by Father Harold. I may add that Father Dixon returned after many years, and died in the Franciscan Friary, Wexford.

Tubbergall, and Lieutenant Bookey of Rockspring, were killed by the infuriated peasantry at Glenbawn, near the Harrow, two miles from Ferns;¹ and the name Bookey's Stream still survives.

The Roman Catholic Chapel of Boolavogue, a modest thatched edifice near Oulart, was burned by the yeomen early on Whit Sunday morning, May 27th, the actual perpetrator being Valentine Mowles (honest Jack "Shorehole" Murphy having refused to become an incendiary); and so, Father John Murphy, Curate of Monageer and Boolavogue, saw there was nothing left but to fight or die. Meantime, on the previous evening, some ten or twelve Protestants had fled to the hospitable roof of the Rev. Robert Burrowes, Archdeacon of Ferns, Rector of Kilmuckridge, who lived at Kyle, near Oulart. This worthy parson was a tolerant man, and was highly respected by all classes. In fact, he had incurred not a little odium for his condemnation of the floggings, pitch cappings, triangles, half hangings, &c., which had been going on for some time in his own parish. On Whit Sunday, an armed band of peasantry went to his house at Kyle, and the leaders gave him to understand that they had no intention of injuring him in any way, merely requiring whatever arms and ammunition he had. The worthy Archdeacon came out to his porch and said that there were no arms to be had; but at this juncture, unfortunately, a woman named Sally Clifford—one of those who had sought protection the previous evening, and was hiding in the attic—deliberately fired from the back window on the insurgents, who retorted by killing the Rev. Mr. Burrowes, as also his son, and five others.²

¹ After the burning of Archdeacon Burrowes' house, on Whit Sunday, the "rebels" attacked the town of Ferns. Musgrave says that the Protestant Bishop, Dr. Cleaver, had fortunately fled, "but his servants, one of them an orphan lad, who had been nurtured and educated by the Bishop, received the rebels with open arms." Most of the town was plundered, and the episcopal library suffered almost complete destruction; the palace being also demolished.

² One of the last of the victims connected with the '98 movement in County Wexford, was James Redmond, who was tried and executed on July 30th, 1801, for the murder of the Rev. Robert Burrowes, at Kyle, Oulart, as mentioned in the text.

The famous battle of Oulart Hill was fought on Whit Sunday afternoon, May 27th, when the County Wexford forces, numbering about 3000, under the dashing Father John Murphy, defeated the infamous North Cork Militia and several detachments of Colonel le Hunte's Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Foote and Major Lombard.¹ The Colonel and the Shilmalier Cavalry fled, revenging themselves by burning every thatched cabin on their retreat, and murdering, indiscriminately, every man, woman, and child they met, in which fell work they were effectively aided by the detestable le Hunte, Solomon Richards, and Hawtry White. About the same time, 150 peasants were killed at Kiltomas Hill, after which the Yeos, as Gordon writes, burned 100 cabins and two Roman Catholic chapels, within a radius of eight miles.

From Oulart, which is about seven miles from Enniscorthy, Father John Murphy marched to Carrigruadh Hill, where he encamped for the night, and next morning advanced to Camolin Park, the fine mansion of which would have been utterly destroyed were it not for the intervention of Father John Redmond, Curate of Camolin, who was afterwards hanged for his pains by the noble owner, Lord Mountmorris. No two more loyal men could be found than Father Frank Kavanagh, Parish Priest of Camolin,² and his curate, Father Redmond, who both frequently dined at Camolin Park; and Father Redmond had been particularly active in denouncing the United Irishmen. As a set-off for the raid on Camolin Park, the Yeos, on Whit Monday, committed fearful excesses in that neighbourhood. "Numbers," as Hay writes, "were called to their doors and shot, while many more met the like fate within their houses, and some even that were asleep." Among the

¹ At Oulart Hill fell Major Lombard, the Hon. Captain de Courcy (brother to Lord Kinsale), Lieutenants Barry, Ware, Williams, and Ensign Keogh.

² After the rebellion, Father Kavanagh had a very narrow escape of being killed by a drunken gang of Yeomanry. He fled for shelter to the house of a respectable Protestant lady called Rowe, who lived at Ballinclay, near Camolin, who hid him in a feather bed. Her family afterwards became Catholics.

prisoners taken by the loyalists were Anthony Perry of Inch, and Esmonde Kyan of Mount Howard.

The North Wexford forces, now about 6000 strong, on Whit Monday, May 28th, marched from Ferns, and crossed the Slaney at Scarawalsh bridge—Father John Murphy being in command. Having halted at the hill of Balliorrell, they were reinforced by a contingent from Ballycanew, under Father Michael Murphy (whose little chapel at the hamlet of Ballycanew had been rifled and burned the preceding day by the Orange marauders); and all marched, *viâ* the Moyne and Summerhill, to Enniscorthy, in sight of which they arrived at twelve noon. Here it is as well to state that both Father John and Father Michael Murphy, as Hay writes, “had been remarkable for their exhortations and exertions against the system of United Irishmen, until they were thus whirled into this *political vortex*.” The then parish priest of Oulart was the Rev. Doctor Murphy, also a loyalist; as was also Father “Ned” Redmond, P.P. of Ferns.

Although all through the day of May 27th, the most startling rumours of a “rebellion” had reached Enniscorthy, the loyalists in the old town by the Slaney felt tolerably secure with the various corps of Yeomanry, numbering about 250, aided by 500 men of the North Cork Militia. In fact, so heedless were they of the imminent danger, and so certain of their powers of defence, that on the same Whit Sunday evening many of the *elite*, as we read in a contemporary narrative, “went down by water to Bellevue,” the seat of the Right Hon. George Ogle, P.C., where all “Ogle’s Blues” were assembled, “*and spent a pleasing and almost cheerful day*.” However, on their return to Enniscorthy before midnight, the intelligence of the defeat at Oulart, the fight at the Harrow, the burning of the Rev. Mr. Burrowes’ house at Kyle, &c., fairly aroused the burgesses, and at once they arrested all suspected “rebels,” whom they securely lodged in the dungeon of the Castle.

At this date, a contemporary writer describes the castle of Enniscorthy as “built of reddish stone, with flanking round towers at each angle, which, through scanty slit and loop-hole, admitted light and air to the winding stairs

within." It was then almost ruinous, but had recently been made a district prison—the ground floor being used as a room for holding district courts-martial—whilst the court yard was the scene of pitch-capping, half hanging, torturing, flogging, &c. That very Sunday evening, a gallows had been erected whereon to summarily execute next day some suspected persons, "who were imprisoned in a dungeon in the eastern tower, having two narrow slits as lancet windows." The market house was also used as a temporary jail, as we learn from Froude.

Captain Snow, with a detachment of the North Cork Militia, guarded the bridge of Enniscorthy, whilst Captain Pounden defended the Duffrey Gate; and the other approaches to the town were manned by military and yeomanry, under the leadership of Captains Cornick, Jacob, and Richards. About 900 peasants, under Thomas Synnott of Kilbride, aided by Michael and Miles Doran, and John Rossiter, forded the Slaney above the town, and, having ascended the rising ground, put the soldiers to flight. Another body of the insurgents entered the town by the Duffrey Gate, where Lieut. John Pounden was killed, near the site now occupied by Doyle's public-house, formerly known as the "Beaver Hats."

Previous to the capture of Enniscorthy, on May 28th, "a proposal was made to Captain Snow," as Hay writes, "to put the prisoners to death before the evacuation of the place; but he, like a truly brave man, would not listen to such a diabolical proposl, and rejected it with scorn and abhorrence; notwithstanding which, *a party went to the Castle, determined to put all confined therein to death. An ineffectual attempt was made to break open the door.*" However, the jailer resorted to the expedient of throwing the key of the castle into the Slaney; and this proceeding saved the prisoners.

The strategy by which Father John Murphy obtained possession of the Duffrey Gate was as follows: He ordered a herd of cattle to be driven at the point of the bayonet in front of the Irish forces; and the animals, goaded to fury by the pikes and the shouts of those who drove them, rushed furiously on the defenders. Many of the neighbouring houses, all of thatch, were deliberately set fire to

by the owners themselves, in order to join the ranks, thus literally "burning their ships;" and the conflagration added to the panic of the cattle. An avenue was thus opened for the insurgents, who compelled the King's troops to retreat precipitately. "The impetuous advance of the insurgents was, however, checked by a most destructive fire directed against them from those houses near the gate, whose doors opened to receive and shelter their routed foe;" but the hardy peasants fought their way inch by inch down the Duffrey Hill, to where the Cathedral now stands, and Enniscorthy was practically won.

Father Murphy, with a select body of pikeman, seeing that Vinegar Hill would be a splendid camping ground, traversed Irish Street, and attempted to cross the Slaney at the present junction of Irish Street and Island Road, but was compelled by the enemy's fire to go farther up towards Blackstoops, where the gallant band crossed the river in safety. Meantime, this brave priest (who was a born general) left Father Mogue (Moses) Kearns in command of the insurgents, who had taken possession of the Market Square; and before four o'clock the town was in the hands of the Irish. Lieut. le Hunte, of the Enniscorthy Yeomanry, Lieut. Carden of the Scarawalsh Infantry, Lieut. MacBane (half-pay of the 92nd Highlanders), with about 90 of the military and some yeomen, fell in the action, whilst the remainder of the troops, and most of the inhabitants, fled to Wexford. Lecky says that "between 400 and 500 houses and cabins were burned," and that "the loss of the insurgents is variously estimated at from 100 to 500 men." A regular retreat was sounded, and many of the inhabitants set fire to their houses, which proved almost the complete destruction of the town.

The Irish forces under Father Kearns crossed the bridge without any difficulty at about half-past four, and joined Father Murphy's band; and, having regaled themselves at Rudd's Hotel, Templeshannon, proceeded to Vinegar Hill, a rounded eminence, about 390 feet high. They had possessed themselves of any weapons they found in Enniscorthy; and the combined troops made an encampment on the hill, near the windmill, which was never afterwards worked. Having made some rough entrenchments at the

base of the hill, they placed a few guns in position. "They then stationed a large garrison in the town, which was relieved every day by a fresh party from the camp." Hay writes that "several parties were despatched from thence during the night, to bring in all the respectable persons remaining in the county, with menaces of death in case of refusal."

That same evening, the leaders were joined by Garret Byrne of Ballymanus, Thomas Cloney of Moneyhore, and Mr. Barker of Enniscorthy; and the "rebel camp" was fixed on Vinegar Hill from May 28th until June 21st. Having strongly fortified the town, the insurgents looted St. Mary's Protestant Church, "in retaliation," as Plowden says, "for the burning and wrecking of Catholic Chapels." Kavanagh writes: "When the insurgents obtained possession of Enniscorthy, they found the dead body of a drummer of the North Cork Militia hanging in the lodgings of a Mr. Hancock, a Protestant minister and a magistrate; and, having learned on enquiry that he had been put to death by the Orangemen for refusing to join in playing certain offensive party tunes, they naturally considered him as a martyr to their cause, and proceeded to revenge his death by shooting several of the most noted Orangemen among their prisoners."

I have been told by Mr. G. C. Roberts, J.P., whose father well remembered every incident of '98, that after the insurgents plundered St. Mary's Protestant Church, they got the worthy sexton, Jerry Sullivan, to put the large Bible in a donkey cart, and carted it off to the hill. They did not, however, as has been asserted, demolish the church, but merely took away anything that might be of use. One of the chief ringleaders of a villainous gang, who brought much odium on the regular insurgents by their horrible excesses and deeds of cruelty, was Murtoigh (Murtha) Kane, a stable boy at Rudd's Hotel, and who himself, according to Banim, "had never been in a battle from the beginning to the end of the campaign." Rudd himself was a noted Orangeman, and was proprietor of the Portsmouth Arms Hotel, where also was a Masonic lodge. However, as Kavanagh writes, "the insurgents used their victory with a moderation that adorned their

valour, for no house was set on fire, and no person maltreated or put to death, and this although many of the townspeople had taken an active part against them."

One of the earliest to fly was the infamous Archibald Hamilton Jacob of Enniscorthy, who rode away so vigorously that "on his arrival in Wexford his horse was in a dying condition." This wretched scoundrel actually took sail for England in the very first vessel available; and yet, when the rebellion was almost at an end, "he returned to slaughter the flying insurgents with as much alacrity as he had fled from them before."

Here I cannot do better than give a brief description of Enniscorthy as it appeared on that day when captured by the so-called "rebels," from the pen of Michael Banim:—

"The morning before the attack on Enniscorthy, a pleasing and peaceful view might have been enjoyed from the top of Vinegar Hill. It seemed standing in the midst of an extensive amphitheatre of sister eminences, of different elevations and forms, and which receded over one another to different distances, each more or less tinted, according to its remoteness or nearness, with the atmospheric hue which, better than any other finesse of nature, suggests the relative places of large objects. Of these many encircling heights, some had a soft, undulating shape, some the hard, rugged outline, that proclaims a rocky brow. Beyond the near and middle ones, the whole rural panorama, only varied by swell or hollow, presented an almost universal character of sloping cultivation. Yet other objects relieved the scene. To the north, at a distance of many miles, the old black castle of Ferns was visible, a blue cone of hill towering beyond it. To the west, the eye travelled to the very bases of the ragged Blackstairs Mountain, and to the more massive Mount Leinster, the bounds of the county in that direction. The town appeared beneath, seemingly at the foot of the eminence, its suburbs stretching up the adjacent ascents, part of the main town also climbing to join those less considerable streets, while the other part lay in a sudden hollow by the river. And the sinuous river could be seen, miles distant, first winding under a remote bridge; then, ere it reached the nearer one of Enniscorthy, dividing round an island into two

distinct currents: then passing beneath, and separating the scattered town: and then, still visible for two miles of its sea-bound course, gradually widening, yet retaining its mazy character, and overlooked by slanting wood, or green hill, or embowered mansion.

“The lower town of Enniscorthy is situated at different sides of the Slaney, and is connected by a rude bridge. Above that portion of it, upon the eastern bank of the river, and at about a quarter of a mile’s distance, appears the almost conical eminence of the not uncelebrated Vinegar Hill. To its base is a gradual ascent from the town. Then it rises suddenly, presenting a surface partly of grey rocks, some swelling out in large masses, some half-clothed with dwarf furze, and partly of intervening patches of spare grass, which draw from the scanty mould, during winter’s moisture only, their verdant livery; while in summer they become parched into a russet colour, blending with the general barrenness of the hill side.

“But though, upon the day when we are called to the summit of Vinegar Hill, the general features of this fine prospect were necessarily distinguishable, yet to the eye they were disfigured by the blotches they then wore. Wherever, almost literally speaking, a picturesque cottage or cabin, or a rural mansion, should have stood peacefully basking in the summer light, arose thick smoke, or decaying flame, or blackened ruin; the humble ornaments of the landscape having been devastated by the Orange party, the more important by the insurrectionists. The thatched suburbs of Enniscorthy, which, previous to yesterday’s savage contest, had stretched up the slopes over the river, were now a dingy, shapeless heap of confused ruins. Some of the doors in the lower town [Templeshannon] yawned wide, since they had been flung or burst open by the fierce invaders: others that remained shut gave yet a distinct idea of desolation. Masses of dead or motionless bodies, choking, along with black thatch and broken furniture, the narrow streets, were fearfully visible to the eye, a few wild figures only stalking through them. And, if the spectator, curious to analyze the general horror, but descended the hill side, he might perceive that the intoxicated Croppy often slept out, amongst these groups of dead, his deep

debauch of the previous night. . . . The still numerous reinforcements which continued to repair to the prominent rendezvous, brought with them such accounts of the continued aggressions, in cold blood, of the Orangemen of remote districts, as served to render the victors of Enniscorthy not only proud of the slaughter they had committed, but athirst for more of the blood of their would-be exterminators. . . . No better ground could have been chosen by means of which to guard against surprise from an advancing foe. For, full ten miles off in any direction, the smallest column of troops might easily be descried in motion.

“After the lapse of many hours, during which no one measure had been unanimously agreed upon, the tired or impatient peasants began to form, like different swarms of bees, into distinct bodies, and to proceed in whatever distinct routes whim or undisciplined desire suggested. Of these throngs, some were miles away, some less distant; but a very small portion of the original concourse remained upon Vinegar Hill, when a shout was heard from an insignificant party, who had gone to dally and waver on the Wexford road. The band, still on the rocky eminence, caught up this shout: others, departing in different directions, echoed it, until it was sent faintly back by the most remote throngs. All instantly returned, pell-mell, to reassume their abandoned position, and to discover why it was they rent the air with their own outcries.”

The explanation of this chorus of joy from the partly scattered insurgents was the arrival at the Corrig churchyard, near St. John's, of Edward FitzGerald of Newpark,¹ and John Colclough of Ballyteigue, two “county gentlemen,” who had been liberated by the authorities at Wexford, and sent as envoys to treat with the “rebels” at Enniscorthy, on the morning of the 29th of May. This intelligence only strengthened the insurgents in their determination to attack Wexford itself, and forthwith, after mid-day, having detained Mr. FitzGerald, they sent back

¹Mr. Edward FitzGerald of Newpark, was arrested and court-martialed in 1799; and in October, 1800, was released, but was forced to exile himself to Hamburg, where he died in 1807.

Mr. Colclough to intimate their intention to the citizens of the county town. That same evening they marched from Vinegar Hill to the Three Rocks, about three miles from Wexford; and here the vast concourse of about 25,000 peasants—men, women, and children—arrived about seven o'clock, spending the night under the canopy of heaven "in a stone strewn hollow which ran behind the brow of the splintered eminence that beetled over the road." Not long after midnight, an advance detachment of the troops of Major-General Fawcett, consisting of about 700 men of the Meath regiment from Duncannon Fort, under Captain Adams, was cut to pieces by the insurgent outposts near the Three Rocks; Ensign Wade and sixteen privates being taken prisoners. "The magazine was blown up in the conflict," as Hay writes, "which circumstance rendered the howitzers not so great a prize as they otherwise would have been to the victors."

On the morning of May 30th, Major-General Fawcett, having got intelligence that his advance guard was almost annihilated, retreated in all haste to Duncannon Fort, with the 13th regiment and the rest of the troops, leaving Wexford to take care of itself. Meantime, Col. Watson and Col. Maxwell, at Wexford, anticipating the arrival of Fawcett, determined to punish the rebels, and accordingly sallied forth with about 200 men of the Donegal Militia, aided by the Wexford, Enniscorthy, Taghmon, Healthfield, and Shilmalier Yeoman Cavalry. Alas! the troops had only reached Belmont, when Col Watson was killed near the brow of the hill, and so the rank and file fled in disorder to Wexford—the result being that the loyalists of that old town made up their minds to quit it. Before evacuating Wexford, the craven "ascendancy" cowards went to the jail and released Mr. Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey (who, though a prominent magistrate, and was very popular, had been confined by his brother justices of the peace), and implored him to act as their mediator with the insurgents at the Three Rocks.¹ Poor Harvey, anticipating that the

¹The names of the gallant (?) loyal defenders of Wexford—all magistrates—who visited Harvey on this eventful occasion were: The Right Hon. George Ogle, Cornelius Grogan, John Grogan,

worthies who visited him sought his death, crawled up the chimney of his cell, and only admitted them on the distinct promise of being liberated. However, hearing the true state of affairs, he refused point blank to risk his life as an envoy of peace, but, after a long parleying (all the time being still up the chimney), consented to write a letter to the insurgents, urging them to spare the lives of the inhabitants. At the suggestion of Dr. Jacob, two brothers, namely, Richard and Loftus Richards, both "counsellors," went to announce the surrender of Wexford.

Meantime, the military, who had fled from the Three Rocks towards Duncannon, committed terrible devastation, burning numerous houses, and shooting unarmed peasants, as Gordon relates. In their fury they burned the Catholic Church of St. Fintan at Mayglass; and, sad to relate, many females were shamefully violated.

To their credit, be it recorded, that the insurgents agreed to accept honourable surrender of the town, undertaking to spare life and property on condition that the arms and ammunition of the Wexford garrison were peacefully given up. Having detained Mr. Loftus Richards as a hostage, "Counsellor Richards and Mr. Edward FitzGerald were sent back to the town to settle and arrange the articles of capitulation; but those gentlemen, on their arrival, to their great astonishment, found the place abandoned by the military." This disgraceful flight of the soldiery left the populace at the complete mercy of the insurgents, who, however, on their entry into the town, most faithfully kept their promise of inflicting no injury. Mr. Harvey was then named Commander-in-Chief of the Wexford army, with Captain Keough as military governor.¹

James Boyd, Solomon Richards, Isaac Cornock, and Edward Turner, who were accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Colville and Lieut.-Col. Foote, of Oulart fame.

¹ The only house burned was that of Captain James Boyd of the Wexford Yeomanry, a well-known Orange persecutor; and, shortly afterwards, two Orangemen named John Boyd (brother of the above) and George Sparrow, an Enniscorthy butcher, were piked on Wexford Quay. Captain Keough, alluded to in the text, as a proof of his sincerity, became a Roman Catholic, and, as Mrs. Brownrigg writes, "went publicly to chapel at the head of his men."

Although almost three-fourths of the "rebels" had marched to Wexford on May 29th, a considerable number remained on Vinegar Hill in the permanent camp, and were daily recruited in strength from various parts of the county. In the absence of any recognized commander, a few daring spirits had themselves elected as "Captains of the Wexford Army of Liberty," and, as a natural consequence, the guerilla warfare was varied with deeds of a cruel nature on the brow of Vinegar Hill—the windmill serving as a temporary prison. "Two sentinels, armed with muskets, guarded the low and narrow entrance to the temporary prison, and grimly did they scowl on the crowded captives pent up within its walls." Many Orangemen, in order to save their lives, begged to become Catholics, and for a time were most ostentatious in the profession of that religion. However, as has been well observed by more than one contemporary writer, the majority of those neophytes "were afterwards the most prompt in coming forward to give their testimony against those whose religious faith they pretended to adopt."

The Vinegar Hill "rebels" marched to Newtownbarry on June 1st, under Father Kearns; but, though successful at first, they were compelled to retreat by Col. l'Estrange, with a loss of 300 men. In retaliation, some straggling camp followers of the insurgents set fire to the Protestant church of Old Ross—the only dissenting place of worship that was burned by the Irish forces during all the campaign. To instance a proof of the absolute terror into which the Orange faction were driven in the town of Wexford, we learn from the oft-quoted narrative of Mrs. Brownrigg—a Protestant lady—that, on June 2nd, "Col. le Hunte, Mrs. le Hunte, and many others, went to the chapel [the old Franciscan Friary], renounced their religion, were christened, and marched in procession through the town." Between the 29th of May and June 3rd, the small body of insurgents on Vinegar Hill, urged by Murtogh Kane and a few other desperadoes, searched for five miles around Enniscorthy, and brought up to the windmill tower any Orangemen or suspected persons they could find. From Hay, we learn that "the insurgents, in revenge for the cruel murder of an idiot boy [a brother of Father

Clinch] near the bridge of Scarawalsh, by a party of cavalry, shot fourteen of their prisoners." Well, indeed, did Vinegar Hill, at this unhappy period, answer to its etymology as "the hill of judgment," inasmuch as the origin of the place-name "Vinegar," is sought in the Anglicised corruption of the Gaelic *fenecus* = Brehon judgment.

A gleam of hope was accorded to the Irish forces by the victories of Tubberneering, Clough, and Gorey; and at last, the British Government began to view matters seriously. Fox openly asserted that "this sanguinary contest has already cost His Majesty's forces the loss of 10,000 men." After the recapture of New Ross on June 5th, Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey was superseded in command of the "rebels," on June 8th, by Father Philip Roche—a born general—and a worthy compeer of the undaunted "Father John." Here I may observe that, in the very much "cooked" official accounts of Newtownbarry and New Ross, the "rebels" are stated to have lost "above 500 men" at the former place, whilst at the latter "2000 rebels" are stated to have been killed. Anyhow, the tide of victory turned after the battle of Arklow, on June 9th, where Father Michael Murphy was killed. This good priest, Curate of Ballycanew, was buried next night by John and Martin Prendergast in the ancient churchyard of Castle Ellis, near Blackwater, County Wexford, about seven miles from Enniscorthy.

On June 16th, according to Kavanagh, the insurgents on Vinegar Hill "despatched a party of pikemen to the town [Enniscorthy], who, having seized upon four of the prisoners confined in jail, led them off with them to the 'Hill,' where they soon after suffered death." In round numbers, between the 6th and the 19th of June, about seventy loyalist prisoners were put to death near the old windmill. The burning of the barn at Scullabogue was a most regrettable incident, but, in retaliation, the Orangemen burned the Catholic Chapel of Ramsgrange, on June 19th. Lacken Hill was surprised early on June 19th, and the "rebels," under the direction of General Cloney and Father Roche, made a masterly retreat the same evening to the Three Rocks.

From Musgrave's book we learn that "commissaries were appointed in every parish to provide provision for the camp at Vinegar Hill, according to the directions of the committee or the commander-in-chief, and each of the commissaries had a certain number of pikemen under his command." One of these commissaries was the notorious traitor Jeremiah FitzHenry of Ballymackesy, near Enniscorthy, afterwards Col. FitzHenry, J.P., who married Mary Catherine, a sister of the wife of John H. Colclough of Ballyteigue. Father Roche, on June 18th, signed a warrant, quoted by Musgrave, authorizing a Mr. John Brennan "to send dinner for twelve men belonging to Jeremiah FitzHenry." While posing as a "leader of the rebels," this young man never did anything deserving of notice, and he fled to the continent before the battle of Vinegar Hill, subsequently attaining distinction in the French service, and finished by betraying the "Irish Legion" to the Duke of Wellington, in 1811, in Spain. He was rewarded by the British Government with a pension of £500 a year, and returned to Enniscorthy early in 1812, where he spent the remainder of his days, "with the obloquy of his half-discovered, or rather strongly-suspected, crime of treachery hanging about him."

We have it on the testimony of Sir Jonah Barrington that, notwithstanding all the horrors of this period, "women were uniformly respected by the insurgents." He adds: "Though numerous ladies fell into their power, they never experienced any incivility or misconduct. But the foreign troops in our service (Hompesch's) not only brutally ill-treated, but occasionally *shot*, gentlewomen. A very respectable married woman in Enniscorthy, Mrs. Stringer, the wife of an attorney, was wantonly shot at her window by a Yeoman, in cold blood. The rebels, though her husband was a loyalist, a short time after took some of those foreign soldiers prisoners, and piked them all, as they told them, 'just to teach them how to shoot ladies.'"

In his *History of the Rebellion*, the Rev. J. B. Gordon, Rector of Killeghny (who died November 4th, 1836), says that "during the disturbances of 1798 not a Protestant was killed, nor a house burned, in the whole parish of

Killegny, owing chiefly to the humane exertions of the Rev. Thomas Rogers, the Parish Priest, and Mr. Jeremiah FitzHenry, a Roman Catholic gentleman of influence in the parish." Needless to add that this latter personage was none other than Col. FitzHenry, alluded to above.¹

On June 15th, five regiments landed at Waterford from England; and on the following day the "Guards," who had been despatched from London on June 10th, also arrived at Waterford. Four days later the English forces in County Wexford consisted of 20,000 men, commanded by Lieuts.-General Lake and Dundas; Majors-General Needham, Duff, Asgill, Hunter, Loftus, Eustace, Johnson, Gascoyne, Hewett, and Cradock; and Brigadiers-General Moore (Sir John Moore), Grose, &c.

In regard to the fearful execution of loyalists at Wexford bridge, on June 20th, much exaggeration has been employed. Some writers have estimated the number of victims at ninety-seven, and others as 200; but, we learn from the *Memoirs of Lieut. Ogle* that, "in all, there were only fifty-seven prisoners in Wexford jail on that occasion." It appears that about three o'clock that evening, news having reached the insurgents that the English had concentrated all their forces in the direction of Vinegar Hill, and that the most frightful crimes were being perpetrated by the soldiery, Captain Dixon, and an infuriated mob of seventy-five men, whom he had plied with drink for the purpose, took the fifty-seven prisoners out of Wexford jail—the governor of which had handed the keys to the Rev. Roger Owens, Rector of Camolin²—and, after a mock trial on the bridge, the awful tragedy began. About six o'clock, when thirty-four persons had been sentenced and and thrown over the bridge, Father John Corrin,³ Parish

¹ Col. FitzHenry died March, 1845, and was buried at Ballybrennan. His widow died January 29th, 1857.

² The Rev. Roger Owens was, for the long period of sixty-two years, Rector of Camolin, near Gorey, and died at Kilbride, September 20th, 1843.

³ Father John Corrin, who graduated at Louvain University, in 1778, and was appointed Parish Priest of Wexford, on July 4th, 1782, died April 4th, 1835, in the 86th year of his age, and was interred in the Franciscan Friary Church, near the altar.

Priest of Wexford, appeared on the scene. This good priest went on bended knees to implore Dixon to cease this summary form of Lynch law, with the result that a respite was granted.

Among the victims awaiting trial was the Rev. George Taylor, a Methodist preacher, who thus writes:—"When he [Father Corrin] saw their determination, he requested them to kneel down and pray for the souls of the poor prisoners, before they would kill any more of them. They obeyed, and when he had got them in the attitude of devotion: 'Now,' said he, 'pray that the Lord Jesus may give you to feel that mercy for them which you expect from Him in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment.' They at length consented to spare us awhile longer. He then led us away, and as he was coming by me, I stood up and kissed his hand, saying, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'"

We also have the testimony of the old Protestant lady, Mrs. Brownrigg, who witnessed these harrowing scenes, that the venerable friar, Father John Broe, O.S.F.,¹ alone saved nineteen prisoners. Another writer adds: "Father Broe, having entreated the people in vain to spare the life of an exhausted victim, whom they had thrust against the wall, and were about to slay, threw his arms round the doomed Protestant, when the five minutes respite which had been granted had expired, and then told the insurgents to fire as soon as they pleased. It was a noble act, and it produced the desired effect." In all, thirty-five men were executed upon Wexford bridge, and one man was shot at the jail; but the remaining twenty-one prisoners owed their safety to the heroic efforts of Father Corrin, Father Broe, O.S.F., General Edward Roche, Esmond Kyan, and Edward Hay.

On June 20th, the concentrated English troops were in readiness for a decisive battle, and only awaited the word of command from Lieut.-General Lake, then resting at Solsboro', near Enniscorthy, as was also General Dundas. Major-General Johnson and General Eustace, encamped at

¹ Father Broe died May 18th, 1803, aged 66, after a missionary life of forty years, most of which was spent in Wexford.

Bloomfield; whilst Sir James Duff joined General Loftus at Scarawalsh. Thus there were four divisions of forces, under six able generals, numbering about 18,000 disciplined men, as against 16,000 peasants, who, although advantageously posted, lacked arms, ammunition, and discipline.

Vinegar hill, "the hill of judgment," towers over the town of Enniscorthy, and, at its base, the river Slaney flows placidly to the sea. "From one point, the ascent," as Sir Jonah Barrington writes, "is rather steep, on the other, gradual; the top is crowned by a dilapidated stone building." The hill commanded not alone the town, but nearly all the approaches to it; and, round the base, the insurgents had made a tolerable fosse. But what availed this splendid vantage point? "The peasants," as Barrington says, "had a very few pieces of small half-disabled cannon, some swivels, and not above 2000 firearms of all descriptions." From Hay we learn that "there were but two charges for cannon, one of which was fired against the army approaching from Solsborough, and the other a dismounted cannon posted at the Duffrey Gate, at Enniscorthy." In all, the insurgents had but thirteen pieces of cannon, of which three were six pounders. In the grey dawn of the morning, on that memorable 21st of June, the English troops began to form a cordon at the base of operations; the Wexford, or south side, however, being exposed, owing to the absence of General Needham's column, which should have completed the circle. Here I may observe that on the previous evening, Sir John Moore, the hero of Corunna, with 1300 men, *en route* from Longraigue to Enniscorthy, defeated the insurgents at Foulk's Mill; but it is worth recording that the Irish troops, numbering only 600, fought stoutly for four long hours and more (3.30 to 8 p.m.) against veteran English troops, and killed 400 of said enemy.

The actual battle of Vinegar Hill began at half-past seven o'clock, when three salvos of artillery awoke the echoes far and near. It was a veritable mowing down of the brave Irishmen, and the marvel is that they made such a gallant defence. Barrington writes: "A great many women mingled with their relatives, and fought with fury; several were found dead amongst the men,

who had fallen in crowds by the bursting of shells. . . . General Lake, at the break of day, disposed his attack in four columns, whilst his cavalry were prepared to do execution on the fugitives. . . . It was astonishing with what fortitude the peasantry, uncovered, stood the tremendous fire opened upon the four sides of their position : a stream of shells and grape was poured on the multitude ; the leaders encouraged them by exhortations, the women by their cries, and every shell that burst among the crowd was followed by shouts of defiance. General Lake's horse was shot, many officers wounded, some killed, and a few gentlemen became invisible during the heat of the battle. The troops advanced gradually but steadily up the hill ; the peasantry kept up their fire, and maintained their ground ; their cannon was nearly useless, their powder deficient, but they died fighting at their post."

None of the published histories of '98 give any clue to the failure of the cannon on the part of the insurgents, but the simple truth is as follows :—A certain Valentine Gill (or Val. Gill, as he was named by his friends) had, on the capture of Enniscorthy, been brought up to the camp as a very desirable acquisition. He was a celebrated engineer and surveyor, and lived in a fine mansion house, on the site of the flour store just erected (August, 1898) for Mrs. White, next the Athenæum, on Castle Hill. As long as success seemed to favour the insurgents, Gill gave every assistance to them in drawing out plans, mapping out routes, and generally acting as engineer-in-chief ; but, on June 20th, he began to realize that he was on the losing side. Tidings had reached the camp of the formidable army surely hemming in the occupants of the hill ; and he found an opportunity, the night before the battle, of conveying intelligence to General Lake of the utter weakness of the "rebels." Father Clinch, curate of Enniscorthy, had warned the leaders against the surveyor (who had even gone the length of getting himself baptized a Catholic "as a guarantee of good faith"), but his warning was unheeded ; and the crowning folly was perpetrated when Valentine Gill was given sole charge of the one really decent cannon on Vinegar Hill. Whether through incompetency, or, more probably, through treachery, Gill

wasted all the available powder and shot where there was no enemy ; and, as a grand *coup de main*, put in an extra charge, with the result that it exploded, killing several brave peasants. He himself was slightly wounded, and lived for years afterwards.

After four hours of carnage, the battle was practically over at twelve noon, and the remnant of the Irish troops, literally wrapped in a hailstorm of shot and shell, fled through the only open space (which should have been occupied by General Needham's column, and hence called "*Needham's Gap*") left them, and on to Wexford. Most opportunely, too, the long looked-for reinforcements of Edward Roche and his sharp-shooting Shilmaliers arrived. "He threw himself between the royalists and their exhausted foes, and presented to them so stern a front that they drew back in disorder. Lake himself attempted to follow with the infantry ; but Roche conducted the retreat with such ability that Lake drew off discomfitted."

Meantime, a terrible fight was being stubbornly waged in the town of Enniscorthy. "Here lay the most of those who had been wounded in the campaign ; and here, too, were numbers of women and young girls, who, from every section of the country, had fled in terror before the advance of the British." General Johnson opened a fusilade upon the town proper, and the fight for over two hours was bloody in the extreme. Father Mogue (Moses) Kearns, Captain Edward FitzGerald, and Captain Thomas Barker (formerly in the French service) ably defended the Duffrey Gate. The last mentioned had taken the precaution of posting a body of reserve on the bridge, with a small mounted cannon. He himself held the bridge till his arm was shot off, and his place was supplied by Father Kearns, "who was soon after severely wounded, and carried from the fight." Barrington writes : "Enniscorthy had been twice stormed ; every street in it had streamed with blood ; many hundred houses had been burned, and the combatants had been hand in hand in the midst of flames and falling edifices."

The following is an extract from General Lake's official account of the battle of Vinegar Hill to Lord Castlereagh : "The relative importance of this very strong position, with

our operations against Wexford, made it necessary to combine our attacks so as to ensure success. . . . To the determined spirit with which these columns were conducted, and the great gallantry of the troops, we are indebted for the short resistance of the rebels, who maintained their ground obstinately for the time above-mentioned ; but, on perceiving the danger of being surrounded, they fled with great precipitation. Their loss is not yet ascertained, but it must be very considerable. The loss on our part is not great, the particulars of which I shall report as soon as possible. In the meantime, I am sorry to say that Lieut. Sandys, of the Longford Regiment, was killed, and that Colonel King, of the Sligo, was wounded in gallantly leading his regiment. Lord Blaney and Colonel Vesey, of the County Dublin Regiment, are also wounded ; but I am happy to add that the wounds of these three officers are very slight." He adds that "the carnage was dreadful," and that "the rascals made a tolerable good fight of it." Lieut.-Colonel Cole was also wounded. I also append the "return of the killed, wounded, and missing, on the 21st of June, in the attack on Vinegar Hill and the town of Enniscorthy," as supplied by J. Hewitt, Adjutant-General :—

"First Brigade (Lieut.-General Dundas' Corps)—Major-General Sir James Duff's 89th Regiment—one killed; Major-General Needham's 7th Dragoon Guards—one captain wounded; Major-General Wilford's 9th Dragoons—one killed; Dunlavin Yeomen Cavalry—one wounded; 1st Battalion Light Infantry—one subaltern killed, one sergeant wounded, two rank and file killed, eighteen wounded, three missing; Sligo Militia—one field officer wounded, two rank and file killed, and three wounded; Suffolk Fencibles—two wounded; Colonel King of the Sligo Corps, and Captain Dunne, 7th Dragoon Guards, are of the wounded; Lieutenant S. Sandys, Longford, killed.

"Second Brigade (Major-General Johnston's Corps)—Royal British Artillery—one rank and file wounded; Mid-Lothian—one subaltern wounded, one rank and file wounded; Hompesch's Hussars—two wounded; 5th Battalion, 60th Regiment—one captain wounded, one

sergeant missing, five rank and file killed, and five wounded; 4th Battalion—one subaltern killed and one wounded, one sergeant killed, three rank and file killed, twenty-two wounded, one missing; Royal Meath Regiment—one sergeant killed; Roscommon—one rank and file killed, one missing; Dublin County—one field-officer wounded, two rank-and-file killed, six wounded.

“Total: two field-officers wounded; two captains killed; two subalterns killed and two wounded; two sergeants killed, one wounded, one missing; sixteen rank-and-file killed, sixty-two wounded, five missing.

“Names of officers killed and wounded—Killed: Lieutenant Barnes, 13th Foot, attached to 4th Battalion. Wounded: Major Vesey, Dublin County; Captain Schundea, 5th Battalion, 60th; Lieutenant Barker, Kildare, attached 4th Battalion, and Lieutenant Hill, Mid-Lothian.”¹

As may well be supposed, these two official accounts are misleading and untruthful. However, it is certain that the loss on the “rebel” side was very small, owing to the masterly way in which the retreat was conducted. One incident must not be forgotten. Father Clinch, Curate of Enniscorthy, mounted on a snow-white charger, fought through the thick of the fray, and performed prodigies of valour. He engaged Lord Roden in single combat, and would, unquestionably, have put an end to that noble loyalist, only that “a trooper coming up to the assistance of his officer, shot down his opponent.” Father Clinch, mortally wounded, was hurriedly placed on his horse, and an affectionate friend rode through the midst of the battle with his precious burden in the wake of the retreating Irish troops, under shelter of a devoted bodyguard of the Shilmaliers. But the end had come. The fugitives had just reached Crossamoy, adjoining Keating’s of Ballinastraw, about three miles from Vinegar Hill, when the martyr-priest breathed his last. Turning aside two miles, they bore him to the ancient cemetery attached to the ruined

¹Return of Ordnance, as taken from the rebels—Three six-pounders, brass; one three-pounder; seven one-pounders; one 5½ inch howitzer; one 4½ inch howitzer: Total, 13. Rounds of ammunition—Seventeen six-pounders; thirty one-pounders; eleven 5½ inch howitzers.

church of Kilmollock, where they buried him, as he was, in regimentals and jackboots.

After the capture of the town, the English soldiers, to their eternal disgrace, by order of General Lake, "burned the hospital that sheltered the sick and wounded of the insurgent army." We have it on the most irrefragable testimony, that all the inmates of the court-house (which was used as a temporary infirmary), to the number of eighty (the numbers are variously given as seventy, eighty, and eighty-seven), were callously butchered in their beds. Not only this, but Lake gave directions that "all the wounded on the field of battle, as well as those discovered in the houses, should be put to immediate death." Over 2000 defenceless persons were mercilessly slain by the victors; and, that same evening, the loyalists in their zeal burned the little Catholic Chapel at Drumgoole, before mentioned.

Edward Hay, who accompanied Captain MacManus on the evening of the battle of Vinegar Hill, to meet General Needham at Oulart, thus describes the awful scene in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy: "The country was in a most dreadful situation; houses on fire, dead men and women strewed along the road and in the fields, while the soldiers were hunting for such as might be concealed in the ditches, and bringing down every person they met. In fact, it was altogether a dreadful picture, "exhibiting all the horrors of war." The environs of the town "exhibited a dreadful aspect, as the greater part of the houses, which had escaped till the arrival of the army, were still on fire; and the house which had been used as an hospital by the insurgents, and which was set on fire with all the patients in it, *continued burning till next morning, when I saw a part of a corpse still hissing in the embers.*"

Insurgent-General Cloney walked from Wexford to Enniscorthy the same evening, in company with Captain O'Hea, of the North Cork Militia, as an embassy to General Lake, and he writes as follows: "On coming within about a mile of Enniscorthy town, we could perceive many of the soldiers still engaged in the work of slaughter. The dead and dying were scattered promiscuously in fields, in dykes, on the roads, or wherever chance had directed

their last steps, and where their barbarous butchers hastened to put a period to their miseries. In one place we beheld some men with arms and some with legs off, and others cruelly mutilated. . . . On entering that part of the town called Dromgoole, Captain O'Hea met some of his acquaintances, who conducted us safely to the Commander-in-Chief's lodgings. . . . A small kitchen was the only sitting-place assigned us, where were our friends, Mr. Hay and Captain MacManus, who had arrived before us; for, having missed General Needham, they thought it right to proceed to the Commander-in-Chief." However, Lake callously refused to listen to any overtures, and he sent Edward Hay¹ back to Wexford with the following un-Christian despatch:—

"Lieut.-General Lake cannot attend to any terms by rebels in arms against their sovereign; while they continue so, he must use the force entrusted to him, with the utmost energy, *for their destruction*. To the deluded multitude he promises pardon *on the delivery into his hands their leaders*, surrendering their arms, and returning with sincerity to their allegiance."

At this time General Needham was encamped at Ballinkeelee, the residence of Mr. Hay; and some of his soldiers amused themselves by burning the Catholic Chapel of Ballymurrin, on the Ballinkeelee demesne, as well as some houses near Enniscorthy. Edward Hay and Captain O'Hea, about seven o'clock on the morning of June 22nd, were sent by General Lake with the above answer to the inhabitants of Wexford, and they journeyed by Ballinkeelee with orders for General Needham. Hay writes: "We set off with all expedition to avoid as much as possible the horrid spectacle of the dead bodies of men and women strewed along the roads, and over the adjacent fields; some bearing marks of the most savage and indecent cruelty; some with their bowels ripped open, and others with their brains dashed out—*situations which they did not at all exhibit the day before, when I saw them lying dead on my way to Enniscorthy*." Needham's soldiers burned the

¹ Edward Hay died in absolute poverty, October 13th, 1826, aged 65 years.

splendid mansion of Newpark, belonging to Mr. Edward FitzGerald, and also the house of Edmund Stafford, Ballymore. In fact, they carried desolation all round; and "the dead bodies were to be seen scattered about, with their throats cut across, and mangled in the most shocking manner."

Meantime, Lord Kingsborough, who had been detained as a hostage by the insurgents, gave a solemn assurance to the leaders for "complete protection of persons and properties;" but, alas! such promises were not kept; and, after the surrender of Wexford to General (Sir John) Moore, Lake proved a veritable Cromwell.¹ Bishop Caulfield was a staunch loyalist, and, aided by Father James Roche, saved Lord Kingsborough's life at the peril of his own. He thus writes in a letter to Archbishop Troy of Dublin, dated Wexford, July 31st, 1798: "I remained until the King's army began to come in (it was Thursday, the 21st of June), then I was in as perilous a situation as ever, not knowing but an indiscriminate slaughter might be their first act. However, *I sat down with Lord Kingsborough² and some others, at his place of concealment, to a bit of salt beef at the fall of night, and got a Captain Bourke, of the North Cork Militia, a worthy fellow, to see me home.* . . . I had made up my mind to the worst at the set out, and afterwards took every occurrence as preparatory to the fatal moment I apprehended. . . . When the *rebels* were defeated everywhere, and the King's army was approaching, a

¹ In October, 1797, before there was any "rebellion," the cruelty and unscrupulous methods of General Lake formed the subject of a severe indictment against him by the Duke of Leinster. Later on, Lord Moira, on the opening day (February 18th) of the Parliamentary Session of 1798, vigorously repeated all the charges against Lake, laying to his account the burning of houses, imprisonment, flogging, and picketing of innocent individuals, &c. At Vinegar Hill, the "rebel" loss was estimated at 400, whilst the royalists acknowledged that about 200 of their troops were killed or wounded. Lake was forced to make an ignoble retreat at Castlebar on August 27th, 1798.

² Lord Kingsborough was afterwards made Earl of Kingston. His son, Lord Kingsborough, died a pauper in the Four Courts Marshalsea.

gentleman, my close neighbour, came to me and told me he would go out to meet them at the risk of his life, and represent me to the commanders as *the protector of the Protestants*, &c. I thanked him, and said that *Government well knew my loyalty*, and I was satisfied I had nothing to fear from the King's forces," &c. In shere fright, the Bishop had burned all the official documents connected with the see of Ferns, including the brief of his consecration; and the vestry or parish records of Wexford and Enniscorthy were also burned.

The houses of the little colony of Quakers who lived near Vinegar Hill, in Cooladine Lane, adjoining Drumgoole, were burned the evening of the battle, by the royalists, in revenge for the humanity shown the "rebels" by those good "friends," especially by the Thompson family. From an interesting booklet on the "Friends in Ireland," it appears that, during the rebellion, the Quakers were uniformly unmolested, and they sheltered alike insurgent and yeoman. In fact, the Summer Quarterly Meeting was held at Enniscorthy, on June 24th, attended by a fairly large gathering. We read in a contemporary narrative: "As they drove along the roads, the dead bodies had to be removed before they could pass. The meeting was said to have been remarkably solemn, as, under the circumstances, we can well understand it would be."

Father Philip Roche and Captain Keough were the first two to be immolated on Wexford Bridge, with seven others, on Monday, June 25th, followed two days later by Bagenal Harvey, Cornelius Grogan, and Patrick Prendergast; and, on June 28th, John H. Colclough and John Kelly, of Killan, were executed.¹ General Lake left Wexford on June 28th, and was replaced by the

¹ The actual executioner was a depraved scoundrel called Dunn, a sergeant in the King's County Militia. "The heads of the persons executed he used to carry to his own house after the execution, rolled up in the linen of each, and in the course of the evening he proceeded to the town house, mounted the roof, and fixed the heads on pikes." (Madden.) Dr. Richard Waddy, who basely betrayed Harvey and Colclough, afterwards, in a fit of *delirium tremens*, killed Father Byrne, O.S.F., of Taghmon, whom he had invited to dinner at Clough East Castle.

humane General Hunter, whilst Brigadier-General Grose, commanding the South Cork Militia, was put as Military Governor of Enniscorthy. The Ancient Britons suffered a most galling defeat at Ballyellis, not far from Monaseed, County Wexford, on June 29th, by General Joseph Holt, but the war was practically ended. It is only to our purpose to add that the undaunted Father John Murphy was burned by the Orangemen at Tullow, County Carlow, on June 27th, and his charred remains were piously brought to the ancient churchyard of Ferns, County Wexford, where they were laid in the tomb of the Rev. Dr. Cassin, S.J., P.P., by his relative Mrs. Dawson (*née* Miss Walsh, of Effernogue), at the risk of her life.

Sir Jonah Barrington visited Enniscorthy towards the close of July, 1798, and found the town "most dilapidated and nearly burned." He adds: "The numerous pits crammed with dead bodies, on Vinegar Hill, seemed on some spots actually elastic as we stood upon them; whilst the walls of an old windmill on its summit appeared stained and splashed with the blood and brains of many victims who had been piked or shot against it by the rebels."

In regard to the lawless acts and outrages committed by the regulars and the Yeos in County Wexford at this sad epoch, it is only necessary to quote the following official letter, written by Cornwallis to Major-General Ross, on July 24th:—"But all this is trifling compared to *the numberless murders that are hourly committed by our people, without any process or examination whatever*. These men have saved the country, but they now take the lead in rapine and murder . . . The conversation, even at my table, where you suppose I do all I can to prevent it, *always turns on hanging, shooting, burning, &c. ; and, if a priest has been put to death, the greatest joy is expressed by the whole company*. So much for Ireland and my wretched situation."

The battle of Craanford, or Ballygullen, County Wexford, which was fought on July 5th, by the insurgents against the royalists under Sir James Duff, may be said to have terminated the "rebellion" in the "model county." Although the brave Irishmen, after a stout contest of nearly two hours, were victorious, it was deemed advisable

by the leaders to disperse and reassemble at Carrigruadh Hill. Hay writes: "A party of these refugees were met by the Rev. Peter Browne, Dean of Ferns, who was suffered to pass, and he instantly posted to Ferns to inform the King's County Militia, quartered there, of the route of the flying insurgents. The military accordingly set out, with all speed, on the pursuit, and killed such of the straggling peasantry as they met or came up to without mercy."

On August 24th, the Orange faction burned the Catholic Church of Gorey; and that of Annacurra on September 2nd; followed by Craan (Crane) on September 17th. Similarly, on October 12th, the Chapel of Rock was committed to the flames, as were also those of Ballyduff and River Chapel, on October 19th; of Monaseed, on October 25th; of Clologue, on October 26th; and of Killaveny, on November 11th. A similar fate was meted out to the chapels of Ferns, Oulart, and Castletown, on November 18th and 28th.

During the remainder of the year 1798, and for some months during the year 1799, a straggling remnant of the County Wexford peasants kept up a guerrilla warfare, mostly living in the woods of Killaughrim, near Enniscorthy—on which account they were known to the Yeomanry as "the Babes in the Wood." On January 30th, 1799, Denis O'Neill, a native of Enniscorthy, petitioned the French Government to send over aid, "as the Irish were more than ever united, better organized, and more eager in the glorious cause of freedom than they ever had been." But aid was now too late, and so the "model county" paid the bitter penalty for its noble resistance to tyranny. Kavanagh truly writes that "it would be impossible to recount a tithe of the hardships and cruelties to which they were subjected." The Catholic chapels of Ballygarrett, Ballinamonabeg, and Askamore were burned by the Orangemen on January 15th, January 18th, and February 24th, 1799, respectively; whilst those of Murrinstown, Monamoling, Kilrush, Marshalstown, and Munfin were similarly set fire to on April 24th, May 3rd, May 15th, June 8th, and June 9th. The picturesque church of Crossabeg shared a like fate on June 24th, as did also that of Killanieran on June 29th; Monageer on July 1st; and Killealy on October 1st.

The usual Wexford Summer Assizes were held at Wexford, commencing July, 1799; but meantime different courts-marshal had been going on at Ross, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and Newtownbarry, where numbers of really innocent persons were executed, or else transported¹—the mere recital of which would now be revolting. An extract from a letter written by Bishop Caulfield, dated Wexford, Tuesday Morning, May 21st, 1799, is proof sufficient: "Every day now brings new charges and new arrestations, so that not one individual is safe, for there will be found people to swear anything. I was myself called on last Saturday to turn a priest out of his parish for refusing to absolve the man who informed against the unfortunate Father James Dixon, and if I do not, I, and all of us, must be considered as systematically concerned in the Rebellion. This was given me in such an air and tone as would really terrify me, had I not been prepared and my mind made up for the worst. *I declare that from the repeated or continual attacks on me, life or death is become almost indifferent to me, but I commit myself to the mercy of God and the dispositions of Divine Providence. I can truly say (but it would ill become me to boast) that I saved more lives, and prevented more mischief, than all the yeomanry and army in this part of the country during the Rebellion.*"

In 1799, Robert Cornwall, of Myshall Lodge, and Thomas Whalley, of Anglesea Street, Dublin, represented the borough of Enniscorthy in Parliament. Solomon Richards, of Solsboro, was Portrieve of the town, and his deputy was James Furlong, whilst David Dalton was Town Clerk. The local Yeomanry corps consisted of the 1st Scarawalsh Infantry, 2nd Scarawalsh Infantry, Enniscorthy Cavalry, Vinegar Hill Rangers—Lieut. Martin Tucker being the Brigade-Major for the county; and, at the Spring Assizes of the year 1800, the sum of £887 5s was ordered to be levied off the county to fill up vacancies in the Wexford Regiment.

¹ William Davis, of Enniscorthy, who was transported on the charge of making pikes for the rebels, died at Sydney on August 17th, 1843, aged 78. Although only a humble blacksmith, he rose to wealth and position, and did much for the Catholic Church in Sydney.

The amount claimed by County Wexford for losses sustained during the rebellion was £311,000, but the Government only allowed a grant of £100,000.¹ As a sort of solemn farce, the sum of £100 was offered for the discovery of those that had burned Catholic Chapels in the county, but no information was ever vouchsafed. In all, there were thirty-three chapels in the diocese of Ferns committed to the flames, and no punishment whatever was inflicted on the authors, who were well known to "the powers that be." Out of the ten priests who were said to be implicated in the "rebellion," seven of them perished or suffered banishment. On March 13th, 1800, the little church of Glanbrien, near Enniscorthy (erected in 1783), was maliciously set on fire by the Orangemen, who also burned the chapels of Kaim and Ballymackesy, in September; and, on August 12th, 1801, the same fate befel the church of Courtnacuddy and portion of Davidstown church.

Although, in 1799, Bishop Caulfield published a pamphlet replying to the base calumnies of Sir Richard Musgrave, yet, as late as the year 1802, the cowardly baronet "repeated all his calumnies," as Renehan writes, "in a more offensive form . . . in which such phrases occur as 'anointed impostors' in reference to the priests," &c. Courts-martial went gaily on during the years 1799 and 1800, although the usual Assizes were held at the appointed times. "Prisoners confined in the gaol of Wexford were parcelled out into different lots, to be tried by the civil and military tribunals, according to the discrimination of the gentlemen of the county."

In 1800, Lord Castlereagh ordered a return to be made in connexion with the *Veto* question, and I subjoin the following extract from the particulars then given by Bishop Caulfield, relative to the Roman Catholic diocese of Ferns: "Average annual income of Bishop, including New Ross parish, £300. There are thirty-six parishes in the diocese,

¹ Lord Cornwallis wrote from Dublin to his friend Castlereagh, on September 26th, 1799: "The same wretched business of courts-martial, hanging, transporting, &c., attended by all the dismal scenes of wives, sisters, fathers, kneeling and crying, *is going on as usual*, and holds out a comfortable prospect for a man of any feeling."

with thirty-six parish priests and twenty-five curates—all seculars. The diocese is fifty-four miles long by twenty-four, having an area of 882 square miles. There are fifteen of the 'regular' clergy—namely, eight Franciscans in Wexford, four Augustinians in Ross, two Augustinians in Clonmines (Grantstown), and one Carmelite Friar in Horetown. In the baronies of Forth and Bargy, the Easter dues are generally received in corn, at the rate of one bushel per score acres." The highest revenues were those of Gorey, Wexford, Ferns, and Ramsgrange, which were respectively £161, £120, £119, and £115 per annum. The parish of Enniscorthy, with one curate, was only worth £30; and the total revenue of the see is estimated at £2192 10s.

From a letter written by John Colclough, of Tintern Abbey, to his brother Caesar, on March 28th, 1800, we meet with a reference to the compensation given for the borough of Enniscorthy. "The borough is at length sold to Lord Lismore and Sir William Gleadows. Acceptances for £8000, payable in ninety-one days, and £5000, payable with interest in one year, are lodged for me as soon as the old burgesses resign and new ones are elected, which, with our utmost speed, will take up a month at least." The sum of £15,000 was given by the Government for the loss of the franchise at the passing of the Act of Union—namely, £12,300 to Lord Lismore, and £2700 to Robert Cornwall.

It was only at the close of the year 1801 that Enniscorthy began to emulate the Phœnix, and a practically new town sprang up between the years 1801 and 1804. Valentine Gill published the first *Map and Applotment of Enniscorthy* in 1802.¹ The year 1803 is memorable for excessive heat, and we read that many rivulets throughout the county were dried up. With the death of Robert Emmet, on September 20th, 1803, may be said to date the termination of the "rebellion" of 1798. Yet the *Habeas*

¹ On December 2nd, 1801, the Lord-Lieut. issued a proclamation for the discovery of the persons who murdered Thomas O'Neill, wounded his children, and set fire to his dwelling-house at Ballinapierce, near Enniscorthy.

Corpus was suspended, and the revolting business of "espionage," and "informer," went on merrily. In fact, over 100 persons from County Wexford, who had been arrested merely on suspicion of complicity in the '98 rebellion, were detained in prison or transported between the years 1800—1804. Even as late as July, 1803, the loyal Doctor Caulfield, Bishop of Ferns, was again accused of want of energy in putting down treason, which was no doubt owing to the efforts of his "noble" maligner, Sir Richard Musgrave.¹ This was particularly cruel, as the worthy bishop was completely broken down in health, so much so that he had to apply to Rome for a coadjutor; and on October 2nd, 1804, Doctor Patrick Ryan received his bull of appointment, with the title of *Germanicia in partibus*.

¹ Sir Richard Musgrave had been created a baronet on December 2nd, 1782; and, in 1784, while High Sheriff of County Waterford, he acted as public executioner at Carrick-on-Suir, "plying the dreadful cat-and-nine-tails on the backs of certain Whiteboys." On November 1st, 1799, he wrote to Secretary Cooke, suggesting that, in the event of a lucrative position being secured for him, he would vote for the Union. As a consequence, he was appointed Collector of the City of Dublin Excise, at £1200 a year. However, Cornwallis, on March, 24th 1801, repudiated Musgrave's book on the Rebellion; and the author died without issue, April 6th, 1818.

ENNISCORTHY, 1805—1825.



THE earliest entry on the present Episcopal Register of the Catholic See of Ferns reads as follows:—"On September 8th, 1805, died the Rev. William Synnott, Parish Priest of Enniscorthy, and, immediately, the Most Rev. Patrick Ryan was made Pastor of that flock." Enniscorthy has ever since been a "mensal" parish, or a "Bishop's parish," managed by an "Administrator;" and, in January, 1806, Dr. Ryan came to reside in the town, in the house recently occupied by Mr. Corcoran, Slaney Place.

On May 13th, 1802, the Rev. Richard Radcliffe was appointed Rector of Enniscorthy; and, on March 25th, 1806, the neighbouring parishes of Edermine and Ballynanslaney were ecclesiastically united by Act of Council. At this date, Solomon Richards was Portrieve of Enniscorthy. Robert Beale was appointed Captain of the Enniscorthy Yeomanry on February 15th, 1806; and, at the Spring Assizes of that year, there was a levy of men, or fines, ordered to be assessed off the county for the Wexford Regiment, or "Yellow Bellies," the town of Enniscorthy, or St. Mary's Parish, being taxed as "4s. 4d. men, or a fine of £85." Solomon Richards was appointed Captain in the Wexford Regiment on August 3rd, 1808, but afterwards taking Holy Orders, was appointed Rector of Clone, near Ferns.

On November 17th, 1806, Robert Shapland Carew and John Colclough, of Tintern, were returned as M.P.'s for County Wexford, defeating Lord Loftus and Abel Ram. In 1807, John Colclough and Richard Brinsley Sheridan contested the vacancy against Abel Ram and William Alcock. A duel was fought, in the month of May, over this election between Alcock and Colclough, at Ardcairisk, in which the latter was shot, but the former died mad soon afterwards.

Fraser's *Statistical Survey of the County of Wexford* was published by order of the Royal Dublin Society, in 1807,¹ from which we learn that the County contained 142 parishes, "with two boroughs, Wexford and New Ross." The author describes the "find" of "a vein of galena, in the parish of Killann, near Enniscorthy," which resulted in the production of a considerable quantity of lead. At this date, there was no lighthouse from the Tower of Hook to Wicklow Head, a most dangerous coast of almost seventy miles. Throughout the county "there was a constant round of industry almost unequalled, and strongly impressing on the admiring observer the ardent wish that their labour may meet with its due reward." He discounts the views of Arthur Young, who made his observations on certain portions of the county, *a knowledge of which he acquired after a stay of six hours*; and he inveighs against the prevailing agricultural system. From a return furnished by the Rev. Mr. Elgee, Rector of Wexford, the number of houses in the four parishes within the walls of that town, in 1806, was estimated at 658, and the population as 5922; whilst in the parishes of St. John's, St. Michael's, and St. Peter's, the number of houses was 943, with an area of 1680 acres. In regard to the prices of poultry in Wexford and Enniscorthy markets, a couple of crammed fowl fetched 2s. 2d.; a very fat turkey, 2s. 8½d.; and a couple of turkeys alive, full grown, 3s. 9½d. Honey sold at about 1s. 1d. per quart. There was a fair at Michaelmas, at Ballyhack, for poultry only.

In April, 1806, the aged Bishop Caulfield consecrated Father Patrick Lambert, O.S.F., as Bishop of Newfoundland, in the Franciscan Friary, Wexford; and his last public appearance was to vote against the *Veto*, in Dublin, on September 14th, 1808—although he was then very delicate. However, he attended and subscribed the condemnation of Blanchard's errors at Dublin, on July 3rd, 1809. At the close of the year 1808, by the transfer of

¹ On April 6th, 1807, the Royal Dublin Society paid Thomas Forde, engraver, the sum of £22 10s. 6d. for engraving the map prefixed to this survey. Previously, namely, in 1790, Mr. Bushe had published in the *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, a survey of County Wexford.

the episcopal chair of Ferns, Enniscorthy became the Cathedral town of the diocese of Ferns.

The year 1810 found the Catholics of Ireland almost in as degraded a position as a century previous; and this was principally brought about by the prevalence of the Orange system, and the cool presumption of the "ascendancy" party. The Catholic claims were defeated in Parliament by a majority of 104; and, on July 30th, 1811, there was a proclamation issued by the Lord Lieutenant "against the election or appointment of delegates or representatives under resolutions made by persons styling themselves "A Meeting of the Catholics of Ireland." Even so consistent an opposer of the Union as was the Right Hon. George Ogle, P.C., of Bellevue, near Enniscorthy, fought a duel with Barney Coyle, of Dublin, on June 5th, 1813,¹ who had called him out for asserting that "a Papist would as soon take a false oath as eat a poached egg."

On May 24th, 1811, Abraham Goff inserted a notice in the *Dublin Gazette* that he had planted, within four months, 8000 ash, 8000 spruce deal, 8000 deal firs, 8000 larch, and 4000 oak trees on the lands of Killagoley, near Enniscorthy. This grand wooded demesne is now the District Lunatic Asylum. About the same time was built the magnificent mansion known as Bloomfield, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles out of town, by Hugh Howell Farmar, J.P., who died February 12th, 1812, and is buried in St. Senan's, or the "old church," in Templeshannon.

In 1812, Robert Shapland Carew and Sir Frederick Flood were returned as M.P.'s for County Wexford—an election consequent on the assassination of "No Popery" Perceval, Prime Minister—and sat until 1818. As might be expected, the Emancipation Bill, introduced by Grattan in the session of 1813, was withdrawn, and subsequently lost; and the Lord Lieutenant issued a proclamation against the "Catholic Board" on June 3rd, 1814, declaring it "an unlawful assembly."

¹This celebrated duel was fought in Coldblow Lane, Dublin, and Barney's "second" was "pleasant Ned Lysaght." After an exchange of four shots, without effect, the "affair" concluded. Lysaght, like Ogle, be it remarked, was also a poet, and, curious to relate, both are celebrated as having written one famous lyric each.

Between the years 1803 and 1814 Enniscorthy began to give evidence of commercial prosperity, and various buildings went on apace. A flourishing bank, known as "Redmond's Bank," was established; and, from contemporary records, we learn that on October 22nd, 1813, James Condran and Susannah Ralph were committed to Wexford jail "for passing forged notes on Redmond's Bank, Enniscorthy."

On the Boyne anniversary of the year 1813 "the Orangemen were gathered together in large numbers in Enniscorthy," as Renehan writes, "when, to their utter surprise, the Bishop [Dr. Ryan], accompanied by one lay gentleman of influence, entered the meeting." In order to fully realize the heroism of such a deed, it must be borne in mind that Catholics, and especially priests, had been constantly insulted and even attacked by the bigoted faction who dominated the district around Enniscorthy from 1795 to 1813. Even Dr. Ryan himself had to obtain castle protection, but he determined to put an end to the reign of intolerance. "Having asked permission to say a few words to the gentlemen present on a subject of great interest to himself and the Catholics of Wexford, he appealed to them in a calm and most solemn manner not to goad their brethren into resistance by offensive words and display. He assured them the Catholics were ready to forget all past wrongs and differences, and to live at peace with their fellow countrymen. For his own part, his most sacred duty was to preach and practise Christian charity, and he would never yield to fear or force in the discharge of his ministry." This harangue was productive of the best possible results, and, whilst it put an end to party demonstration, "there was no further interference with the free exercise of religion."

As a proof of how very demoralised was the ascendancy spirit of this epoch it is only necessary to chronicle that when Percy Jocelyn, Protestant Bishop of Ferns, was charged with unnatural offences by his coachman, James Byrne, in 1811, the unfortunate Byrne was dexterously countercharged with libel, and imprisoned, whilst the Bishop was subsequently promoted to the see of Clogher. However, a swift Nemesis pursued Lord Percy, because,

whilst in Clogher, he was again charged with an unnatural crime, and fled the country. It was not till 1816 that the present hideous structure known as Ferns Cathedral was built as a parochial church.

A rather remarkable incident occurred in County Wexford, on August 14th, 1813, when the privateer *Argus*, flying the American colours, was captured near the Tuskar Rocks by the *Pelican*, an English man-of-war. That same year, 1813, is memorable in the annals of Enniscorthy as being the date (October 23rd) when the first day-coach to Dublin commenced to run. Some months later, namely, from January 5th to January 29th, 1814, is famous for the "big snow," when the Slaney was frozen over from Enniscorthy to Ferry Carrig, and skating was gaily carried on.

From 1810 to 1813, Bishop Caulfield was a confirmed invalid; and he died at Wexford, January 14th, 1814, being interred in the Franciscan Friary Church. His successor, Bishop Ryan, continued to reside at Enniscorthy as the *sedes episcopalis*, but his health visibly declined in 1816, and almost his last public function was assisting at the consecration of Father Thomas Scallan, O.S.F., as Coadjutor Bishop of Newfoundland, on May 1st, 1816.¹ Orangeism was still dominant, and occasioned the bishop much worry. Judge Fletcher delivered a celebrated charge at the Wexford Summer Assizes on August 5th, 1814, in which he strongly denounced the pernicious tendencies of this system, adding that "he had known several instances of murder trials wherein the juries, under the baneful influence of the Orange association, *had failed to do their duty.*"

The old 38th Regiment, or the Wexford Militia (Yellow Bellies), were disbanded on March 24th, 1816.² The Insurrection Act was then in full vigour, "filling the jails

¹ Bishop Lambert, his predecessor, died in the Franciscan Convent, Wexford, September 23rd, 1816; and Bishop Scallan died in St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1822.

² On September 19th, 1809, a proclamation was issued by the Lord-Lieutenant as to raising men, by ballot, in County Wexford, for completing the strength of the Militia. The present Irish police force, better known as "peelers" (from their founder, Sir Robert Peel), date from 1814.

with persons who could not give a good account of themselves, and transporting men for possessing a fowling-piece." On June 24th, 1816, the notorious "Captain" Jeremiah Grant, a famous freebooter, who had a regular band of robbers, was captured in Killaughram Wood, near Enniscorthy, and was hanged at Maryborough on August 12th. His followers had a regular den in the Ringwood, as well as at Killaughram, but they dispersed after the "chief's" execution. About the same time, Loftus Frizelle was murdered in the Duffrey by Solomon Doran, who was duly hanged for the offence on March 18th, 1818.

In 1815, Daphne Castle, near Enniscorthy, was acquired by Mr. Andrew Jameson from Joshua Pounden; and, in 1818, he established the "Fairfield Distillery," in the village of Forge, on the Urrin. This Andrew Jameson was a relative of the famous "John Jameson," and his distillery near Enniscorthy was known as "The Still."

At the General Election, which was held in 1818, Robert Shapland Carew, of Castleboro, and Cæsar Colclough,¹ were returned as representatives of the County Wexford, after one of the fiercest contests on record. The election continued for twenty days, commencing on June 29th, and terminating on July 21st.

Bishop Ryan died at Wexford, whither he had gone to seek medical advice, on March 9th, 1819, aged 51, and was buried in Enniscorthy Cathedral, which he had founded, being succeeded in the see of Ferns by Doctor James Keating, who was duly consecrated in the Franciscan Friary, Wexford, on March 21st of the same year. On May 12th, Bishop Keating (who lived in the house now occupied by George C. Roberts, Esq., agent to the Earl of Portsmouth) appointed Father William O'Neill, Administrator of Enniscorthy, as Parish Priest of Ferns,² whereupon Father George Whitty succeeded as administrator, with the Revv. Walter Rowe and Michael Mitton as curates. During the same year, St. Peter's College, Wexford, and the Carmelite Nunnery, New Ross, were founded.

¹ Cæsar Colclough died at Newtownbarry, February 5th, 1833.

² Father Edward Redmond, Parish Priest of Ferns (who had been appointed in 1786), died February 11th, 1819.

In 1820, Francis Davis refounded the well-known mills of Kilcarbery, near Enniscorthy, which are still flourishing. In the same year, an agricultural school was established by private enterprise at Bannow. About the same time, a new day-coach from Enniscorthy to Dublin was put in operation; and, in that year, the present stone court-house was built.

A terrible famine raged throughout Ireland in 1822, when the population was estimated at 6,800,000. The only panacea afforded the starving people was a new Insurrection Act—as also the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act—introduced and carried by the execrable Castlereagh, who committed suicide on August 12th of that eventful year. In order to keep down the Catholics, an Emancipation Bill, brought forward by Mr. Plunket on February 28th, 1821, was thrown out. Even the royal visit of George IV., in August, effected no mitigation as regards the disabilities of 4,000,000 of subjects. The “public works,” which were started in 1822, were not of very much benefit, as the monies were expended on some very useless objects, “like the unmeaning obelisk upon Killiney Hill.” For his slightly humane act in favour of the Catholics, the Lord-Lieutenant, Marquis Wellesley, got into disfavour with the Orangemen; and, on December 14th, the celebrated “bottle riot” occurred at the Dublin Theatre Royal. It is quite sufficient to add that no person was ever punished for this outrage on the Viceroy. However, the formation of the “Catholic Association” by O’Connell and Shiel, in 1823, followed by the adhesion of the Earl of Kenmare, Lord Gormanstown, Lord Killeen, and Bishop Doyle, resulted in Emancipation.

Here it is very appropriate to give the following particulars relative to Enniscorthy town, as recorded by a traveller in the summer of the year 1823—that is to say, seventy-five years ago, to which is added a directory of Enniscorthy, as published in 1824:—

“Enniscorthy is a borough, post, and market town, situated on the river Slaney, sixty miles south of Dublin, fifteen south of Gorey, and twelve north-west of Wexford. It is governed by a Portreeve and twelve burgesses. The principal trade that is carried on is in corn for home con-

sumption and exportation; and, next to Clonmel, this is considered the greatest inland corn market in Ireland. The river is navigable to Wexford, a distance of fourteen miles, and conveys to that market the greater part of the corn purchased here. The principal returns are coals, slates, and earthenware. The river furnishes trout and salmon in abundance.

"The rector's house is beautifully situated on Vinegar Hill, close to the town, where the rebels were totally defeated and dispersed on the 21st of June, 1798. The Castle, which had been in ruins for upwards of a century, and stands in the centre of the town, within the last twelve years has been repaired at a considerable expense, and is now occupied by Mr. Hawkins, agent to the Earl of Portsmouth, who owns the greatest part of the land in the vicinity.

"The places of worship are the church [St. Mary's], *in a very ruinous state*; a Roman Catholic Chapel [the *old Cathedral*]; a Methodist Chapel; and a Quakers' Meeting-house. The public institutions are a Roman Catholic Free School; a Sunday School for children of all denominations; a Free School for Protestant children, to which the Earl of Portsmouth allows twenty guineas a year; *a new stone Court-house*, built within these few years, where the sessions are held twice a year; and a Fever Hospital and Dispensary for the poor of the parish. Population, 4650. The market days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Fairs are held on July 5th, August 26th, September 19th, and October 10th.

"POST OFFICE.—Post Master: Mr. Robert Burkett. The mail from Dublin arrives at half-past seven in the morning, and goes to Dublin at half-past five in the evening. The Wexford mail arrives at half-past five in the evening, and leaves at half-past seven in the morning. The Ferns, Camolin, Gorey, and Arklow mails arrive and return with the Dublin mails. Letters for England, Scotland, and the Continent are despatched by the Dublin mail.

"The day coach to Dublin at eight in the morning; and the mail for Dublin at three-quarters past five in the evening. The Wexford mail at three-quarters past seven

in the morning ; and the day coach to Wexford at seven in the evening. A car goes every morning (except Sundays) at eight, from Mr. Reade's, Market Street, to New Ross, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carrick, Cashel, Thurles, Clonmel, Limerick, Tipperary, and Cork, and returns on the following day at five in the evening."

From the same source we cull the subjoined extract in reference to the borough of Wexford :—"On the site of the old castle, which stood on a rocky hill that overlooks the town, barracks are erected for a company of foot soldiers. There are several parts of the old walls of Wexford standing, *and the gates yet remain*. The town consists of one long street with some lanes on each side, and contains many handsome buildings. There are several ruins of ancient abbeys and religious houses. The public buildings are the church, the market house, the court house, where there are sessions twice a year; and the county gaol, where the assizes are held in spring and summer . . . Near the west gate is a small structure over a mineral well, which they call a spa, but the appearance of the water, being covered with an oily scum, is not very inviting, though it has many virtues attributed to it. The chief exports of Wexford are corn, live cattle, salt beef and pork, bacon, hogs, linen, and malt; the imports are slates, coals, tiles, and earthenware. *Provisions are plentiful and cheap, and fine wild fowl may be had from the month of November to May* . . . Wexford is governed by a mayor, recorder, and bailiffs, and sends one member to Parliament. The fairs are March 17th, May 1st, June 29th, August 24th, and November 1st for cattle and wool. Market days, Wednesday and Saturday. The population in 1822 was 11,389."

According to the census of 1821, there were 29,513 houses, and 169,304 inhabitants in County Wexford, which was divided into eight baronies and 142 parishes, containing 315,396 Irish plantation acres. At this date the name *Newborough*, as applied to Gorey by Bishop Ram, had been dropped, and the older name of *Gorey* was resumed. Taghmon was still a village of importance, but gradually became a mere hamlet. The principal residents in Enniscorthy in 1823 were as follows :—

The Right Rev. James Keating, D.D., Rose Hill.
 Rev. George Whitty, Adm., New Street.
 Rev. Walter Rowe, Back Street.
 Rev. Michael Mitton do.
 Rev. Richard Radcliffe, Rector, The Rectory.
 John Bruen, Esq., The Castle.
 Thomas Rudd, High Constable, Templeshannon.
 Charles Hill, M.D., St. John's.
 Joshua Roberts, Sub-Agent, Castle Hill.
 Captain John Nunn, J.P., Rose Hill.
 Dudley Colclough, J.P., Barrack Street.
 Jonas Shekleton, Surveyor, Templeshannon.
 G. M. P. Lepper, Supervisor of Taxes, New Street.
 John Trench, Inspector of the Excise, do.
 James Gethings, Esq., Back Street.
 Arthur T. Goff, Esq., St. Mary Street.
 James Goff, Esq. do.
 John W. Pounder, Esq., Church Street.
 Mrs. Lett, Castle Hill.
 Mrs. Rudd do.
 Miss Sutton do.
 Thomas Lett, Esq., Templeshannon.
 Hercules Atkin, Attorney, Back Street.
 John Donovan do. do.
 John Corcoran do. Castle Hill.
 Edmond Fitzpatrick, Attorney, and Commissioner for
 taking Affidavits : Office, Castle Hill, St. John's.
 Patrick O'Rourke, Apothecary, New Street.
 Robert Burkitt, Surgeon, Market Street.
 John Moss, M.D., Barrack Street.
 John Pounder, Surgeon, Guttle Street.
 Hyacinth White do. Templeshannon.
 Solomon Richards, Esq., Solsborough.
 Henry Alcock, Esq., Wilton.

ACADEMIES.

Mrs. Checkley (Ladies' Boarding School), Back Street.
 Bartholomew M'Curtin (Commercial), Guttle Street.
 Robert Montgomery (Gentlemen's Boarding), Mill
 Park.
 Anthony O'Hara (Commercial), Guttle Street.

BAKERS.

Joseph Bobiear, Market Street.
 Mary Boggan do.
 Sylvester Stamp do.
 William Sterne do.
 Joseph Parslow, Back Street.
 Samuel Freeman [also a *miller*], Back Street.
 Richard Wickham, Templeshannon.

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.

Thomas Bobiear, Templeshannon.
 William Proud, Market Street.
 John Proud do.
 Michael Carthy, Barrack Street.
 James Heath do.
 John Mooney do.
 John Owens do.
 William Pounder do.
 Matthew Roche do.
 Richard Williams do.
 John Furlong (shoe only), Back Street.
 Robert Graham (do.) do.
 Thomas Proud do.

BREWERS.

Robert Beale, Beale Grove.
 Clement Goff, St. Mary Street.

CABINET MAKERS.

John Lett, Market Street.
 Benjamin Wright, Barrack Street.

CARPENTERS.

Thomas Keegan, Back Street.
 Patrick O'Brien do.
 Peter Murphy, Market Street.

COOPERS.

James Cullin, Templeshannon.
 Nicholas Ryan, Irish Street.

BUTCHER.

William Askins, Market Street.

DISTILLER.

Jameson and Fisher, Fairfield.

GROCERS.

John Baker, Market Street.

James Byrne do.

John Murphy do.

John O'Neill [also *tobacconist*], Market Street.

James Reade, Market Street.

Patrick White [also *maltster*], Market Street.

James Redmond, New Street.

Henry Richards, Templeshannon.

CHINA DEALER.

Patrick Dempsey, Barrack Street.

GUNSMITHS.

Benjamin Green, Barrack Street.

John Hall, Market Street.

HARDWARE DEALERS.

John Cooke, Market Street.

John Kennedy do.

INNKEEPERS.

John Rudd ("Portsmouth" Arms), Templeshannon.

Bryan Moriarty, Castle Hill.

John O'Toole, Market Street.

IRONMONGERS, &c.

Lawrence Furlong, Market Street.

Esther Styles, Church Street.

Philip Murphy (leather cutter), Market Street.

William MacLean (copper-smith), Barrack Street.

Edward Dempsey (whitesmith), Back Street.

Richard Hall (whitesmith), Mary Street.
Thomas Cooper (oil and colours), Market Street.
Sarah and Abigail Martin (oil and colours), Back Street.

LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPERS.

Paul Bolger, Market Street.
Frances Bradley (linen only), Market Street.
Martha Gowen, Market Street.
Clara Kinnersly do.
Thomas Malone (woollen only), Market Street.
Matthew Murphy, Market Street.
Bernard O'Flaherty do.
Mary Rainey (linen only), Market Street.
James Redmond, Market Street.
David Smith (hosier), New Street.
Ann Redmond (haberdasher), Market Street.
Mary Ann Hinton (milliner), Barrack Street.
Sarah Byrne, Church Street.
Jane Warren (linen only), Church Street.
Thomas Hudson (linen only), Templeshannon.

SADDLERS AND HARNESS MAKERS.

Thomas Barrington, Market Street.
Henry H. Gowen do.
Abraham Bradley, Church Street.
Thomas Mason, Barrack Street.

MERCHANTS.

Paul Bolger (corn), Market Street.
John Jackman (do.) do.
J. Sherlock (gunpowder) do.
James Cullin (timber), Templeshannon.
George Freeman (corn and butter), Templeshannon.
Morgan Kelly (flour), New Street.
Sparrow and Hannan (timber and iron), Templeshannon.
John Stackhouse, Templeshannon.

MILLERS.

Thomas Edw. Freeman, Mill Park.

Francis Davis (and spirit merchant), Market Street.

PUBLICANS.

Peter Furlong, Market Street.

Peter Hatrick do.

Michael Keegan do.

James Maguire do.

James Moran do.

Nicholas Murphy do.

John Pounder do.

William Sly do.

Lawrence Cullen, Back Street

Thomas Doyle do.

Matthew Doyle do.

Ellen Harden do.

John Bolger, Templeshannon

John Butler do.

Charles Crumpton, Templeshannon.

Thomas Devereux do.

Peter Ferris do.

Patrick Grannel do.

John Murphy do.

Martin Murphy do.

John O'Connor do.

Michael Pierce do.

John Summers do.

William Colleston, Church Street.

Thomas Hinton, Mary Street.

Andrew Doyle, Irish Street.

Denis O'Rourke do.

Philip Mooney, Barrack Street.

George Sly do.

Peter Roe, Guttle Street.

Michael Ronan do.

John Connor, Irish Street.

TAILORS.

Patrick O'Brien, Market Street.

Patrick O'Brien, Back Street.

John Kennedy, Pye Lane.

TALLOW CHANDLERS AND SOAP BOILERS.

John Hollingsworth, Market Street.
 Matthew Jackman do.
 Myles Jordan do.
 Peter Murphy (chandler only), Market Street.
 William Green, Church Street.
 Nicholas Hollingsworth, Church Street.

TANNERS.

Edward Askins and Sons, New Street.
 William Carroll, Back Street.
 George M'Guire do.
 Thomas Sinnott, Barrack Street.
 Thomas Thompson (butter weighmaster), Temple-shannon.

FLAX DRESSER.

Edward Kelly, Templeshannon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Isaac Reeves, Hat Manufacturer, Templeshannon.
 Nathaniel Freeman, Watch and Clock Maker, Market Street.
 Mary Gill, Stationer, Back Street.
 Charles Davies, Painter and Glazier, Church Street.
 John Cooke, Nursery and Seedsman, Barrack Street.

As some of the street names given in the preceding directory of 1824 have been long since relegated to obscurity, the present generation will be interested to know that the primitive names of BACK STREET, GUTTLE STREET, and PYE LANE (Devereux Lane), are now respectively called *George's Street*, *John Street*, and *Lower Church Street*; whilst BARRACK STREET and ST. MARY'S STREET are known as *the Old Barracks* and *Mary's Lane*. Slaney Street, as at present, was formerly known as Barrack Lane; and Friary Lane is now glorified into Friary Place, though another name was Cooper's Lane. Whilst in 1821 there were but 690 houses and 4500 inhabitants, the official returns for 1831 show 1047 houses and 5955 inhabitants.

I have now before me a very fine plan of Enniscorthy mapped out by Valentine Gill, in 1802, and copied up to date, in 1825, by James Lough, for the Earl of Portsmouth. It is on a scale of 100 feet to an inch, and is most interesting, as it gives the names of all the occupiers of holdings in 1825. Nearly all the houses were thatched, and a good deal of building ground appears with the ominous wording: *burned in the rebellion*. Edward Cookman is marked down as owner of the Franciscan Friary, whilst the Friary Mill is designated Manor Mill. Mr. Cookman was also owner of the Island. Henry Gill, the father of Valentine Gill, occupied the house now represented by the new shop of Mrs. White on Castle Hill. The foundry was worked by Pounden and Ong; and Mr. John Wheeler Pounden sub-let the Barracks in Mill Park Road to Mr. Pounder—the successor of a worthy Quaker called W. Wheeler—adjoining “Montgomery’s Academy.” There was also a salt house and a tannery on Mill Park Road, but no other houses.

In 1824, the Castle was in splendid preservation after undergoing extensive repairs. The Castle Hill was much steeper than it is at present, and the bridge was only wide enough for a car to pass over. The water supply of the town was from “Shiel’s Well” (Shiel was a near relative of Richard Lalor Shiel, who was educated for a time in Brownswood, by a “hedge schoolmaster”), which was always icily cold. There was then a most extensive garden near the castle, the only remnant of which is at the back of the Athenæum; and a prominent feature of the landscape was the flat green island (Cookman’s) above the bridge—said *island* giving its name to *Enniscorthy*. The streets were very hilly and irregular, and the houses are described by a contemporary writer as having “grey and red roofs and white walls.” Over all loomed Vinegar Hill, “with its wind-mill tower, in which no grain was ever ground.” The Franciscan Friary was in splendid preservation, and the houses in Friary Lane—then called Cooper’s Lane—were owned by P. Sutton. The Brewery was owned and worked by Mr. Goff, but was afterwards converted into Davis’s Distillery. At this date Jameson’s Distillery at the Forge, or the Still, was in full swing, and was the most

famous in County Wexford—as Bishop’s Water (Devereux’s) Distillery, Wexford, only dates from 1827.

From an old magazine of 1825, we learn that the Portrieve of Enniscorthy, who was a Borough Magistrate, “held a Court once a week, with jurisdiction to the amount of 6s. 8d., Irish currency.” We are also informed that the boundary of the town was “very irregular, and extended in some directions two and three miles from the town.” St. John’s was a hamlet, with a well-known hostelry, called the *Colleen Ruadh’s*, the favourite rendezvous on Sundays for the “bucks” of that time; and it is described as being “a most comfortable inn.” There was also another very popular public house at Brownswood Lane, near Edermine, kept by Mistress Mollie Farrell.

“THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH,”

1825—1850.



HE prohibition in Dublin by the Marquis of Anglesea, Lord-Lieutenant, of the Orange celebration of July 12th, 1826, following on the celebrated Waterford election—when Villiers Stuart defeated Lord George Beresford—showed clearly the trend of matters; and the famous Clare election of 1828 practically won Catholic Emancipation, which was formally granted on March 30th, 1829. However, the disfranchisement of the 40s. freeholders was a terrible blow against Repeal, whilst the grievances of tithes weighed heavily on the members of the ancient creed.

Doctor William Chapman, the venerable Dean of Ferns, who was for forty years Parish Priest of Ross, died at New Ross, September 14th, 1828; and, in 1829, Bishop Doyle of Kildare and Leighlin, the great J.K.L., wrote a graceful epitaph for the tomb of his friend. At this date public attention was drawn to the iniquitous practices of “tithe proctors;” and on June 18th, 1831, thirteen people were massacred, and twenty wounded, at Newtownbarry, County Wexford, for their resistance to tithes. Among the victims was a younger brother of the present Very Rev. Canon Doyle, Parish Priest of Ramsgrange, Chancellor of the diocese of Ferns, who is still (September, 1898) hale, in his 84th year. The author of this tragedy was the Rev. Mr. M’Clintock; and yet, as Mitchel remarks, “no person was ever brought to punishment for this slaughter.”

A Fever Hospital and Dispensary were erected at Enniscorthy in 1829; and the Alms-houses, founded by Bishop Vigors, in 1721, on Summer Hill, Enniscorthy, were rebuilt in 1830. On August 19th of the same year, Col. Chichester (created Baron Templemore on September 10th, 1831) and Lord Valentia were returned as M.P.’s for

County Wexford. On January 14th, 1831, the last general inspection, by order of the Government, of the County Wexford Yeomanry, took place, and they were disbanded shortly afterwards, being replaced by policemen, or the force now known as the Royal Irish Constabulary.¹

Although as early as 1815 a school, on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, was built at Templeshanbo (which was considerably enlarged in 1829), it was not until 1831 that a higher school was provided for Enniscorthy. This now defunct school, on the Erasmus Smith foundation, was erected on the glebe land at Templeshannon, but was practically "parochial and Protestant." We learn from a contemporary magazine that, "in addition to the foundation grant of £52, the trustees of the Earl of Portsmouth arranged to contribute £20 annually."

A public meeting was held at Enniscorthy on January 10th, 1832, under the chairmanship of R. S. Carew, to consider the navigation of the Slaney—namely, to deepen the river near the town for some miles. Mr. Vignoles, C.E., made a statement to the effect that a canal from Pouldarrig to Brownswood would cost £33,000; and that the annual tonnage at this date, conveyed by "cots" from Enniscorthy to Wexford, was 36,000 tons. However, the scheme fell through for want of the necessary capital.

The Enniscorthy and Edermine Political Union gave a *Fête Champetre*, under the presidency of Mr. James Cullin, to Messrs. Henry Lambert, M.P., and C. A. Walker, M.P., on August 11th, 1832. During the summer of the same year cholera raged in various parts of Ireland; and the first case recorded for Enniscorthy was on November 7th. However, this did not prevent numerous meetings all over the country in favour of "Reform" and "Repeal of the Union." The tithe movement, too, occupied much attention, and, in the course of a memorable debate, it eked out that the irrecoverable arrears of tithes in the sees of Cashel, Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, amounted to £84,954.

Canon George Whitty, Administrator of Enniscorthy,

¹ As before mentioned, the Irish police force dates from the year 1814, and all the members were Protestants until the year 1836. Such was the toleration of those days.

was appointed Parish Priest of Castlebridge, on October 30th, 1832, being replaced by Father James Roche, with Father James Synnott as Curate. The Ferns Diocesan Protestant Orphan Society was founded on January 3rd, 1833; and the St. Patrick's Society of Friendly Brothers was established at Enniscorthy on January 14th of the same year. More important still, the "Church Temporalities' Act" became law on July 30th, 1833, which abolished ten Protestant bishoprics in Ireland—including the sees of Ferns and Leighlin—and utterly broke up the "State Church," with its revenue of £732,000 STERLING.

At this period County Wexford had an unenviable notoriety for smuggling of all descriptions; and, in a local paper, we find it chronicled that, on November 3rd, 1832, 700 bushels of smuggled malt was seized by the authorities at Enniscorthy. Emigration was extensive in the years 1831 and 1832, yet the model county was not as badly off as other places. It is of interest to add that the "Retaliator" coach between Wexford and Dublin commenced running on August 23rd, 1833.

In consequence of the disturbances of the "Whitefeet," a meeting of the County Wexford magistrates was held at Enniscorthy on January 24th, 1833, and it was ordered that "the police force of the county be increased by 100 men, and that, in addition to the military stations of Wexford, Duncannon, and New Ross, soldiers were to be stationed at Enniscorthy, Newtownbarry, Templeudigan, and the White Mountain; and also to have an armed vessel at New Ross, in order to protect the county from the depredations of the Whitefeet."

On October 16th, 1833, the cultivators of tobacco were ordered to bring in whatever supply they had on hand, when prices, varying from 2d. to 1s. 6d. per lb., would be paid them. The proclamation further stated that "any persons having 11b. of home-grown tobacco in their possession on the 1st of January, 1834, would be subject to a penalty of £100."

In 1834 the old market,¹ granted to Sir Henry Wallop,

¹ Market tolls on corn, butter, &c., continued to be levied till 1840. Mr. John Cullin, J.P., tells me that he well remembers the

accustomed to be held on Tuesdays, was discontinued. During the same year two fine quays were constructed at a cost of £9000. Previously, the two sides of the banks along the river Slaney, from the present bridge of Enniscorthy, for 200 yards, were only clay. In the autumn, a cotton factory was erected at St. John's, but was only worked for two years, when it collapsed. At this date (1834) Mr. J. N. Nunn was Portrieve.

Mr. Cadwallader Waddy—the first "repealer" elected in Ireland—was returned as one of the members for the County Wexford, on July 3rd, 1834, *vice* Robert Shapland Carew, raised to the peerage. Two months later, namely, on September 9th, a public dinner was given in the "Portsmouth Arms" Hotel, at which were present General Cloney¹ (of '98 fame), Cadwallader Waddy,² and others, under the chairmanship of Doctor Skelton, a medical celebrity. On December 30th of the same year, the local annals have an obituary notice of a celebrated "philomath," or "hedge schoolmaster," named Martin Hughes; and, in the following year, the "Commissioners of National Education" were formally incorporated. On February 25th, 1835, a young lad named Hawkins was stabbed in a party riot which took place on Castle Hill.

A splendid specimen of the *cervus megaceros* was discovered at Ballyhuskard, near the bog of Itty, in 1835, and was for some time in the possession of Doctor Francis Macartney of Enniscorthy, who died April 16th, 1838, aged 65 years. It was larger than the one in Trinity College, but has since disappeared.

Between the years 1825 and 1835, Catholicity made great strides in Enniscorthy; and Bishop Keating deemed it necessary to have a third curate for the town and district.

iniquitous practice whereby the Earl of Portsmouth demanded toll on all goods coming into the market of Enniscorthy. In Wexford, these tolls had been abolished on March 8th, 1813, as the result of an action by the Corporation against Nicholas Whitty, who refused to pay the toll.

¹ General Cloney died at Graigue, November 21st, 1850, aged 76 years.

² Cadwallader Waddy, M.P., died at Kilmacoe, February 7th, 1843.

Accordingly, on February 23rd, 1835, Father Philip Meyler was appointed. In the same year, a parochial residence was built for the clergy on Rose Hill. Bishop Elrington, of Ferns and Leighlin, died July 12th, 1835, which practically ended the “reformed” see of Ferns.¹ Ossory was then united to the diocese of Ferns, and the episcopal palace was subsequently sold.

It is not as generally known as it should be that Daniel O’Connell, “the Liberator,” founded the National Bank ; and a branch of this thriving financial concern was opened at Enniscorthy on August 26th, 1835. During the same month, Tom Moore, the poet, paid a visit to the County Wexford ; and, in reference to Enniscorthy, the following extract from his *Diary* will doubtless be read with interest :—

“August 25th, 1835.—When we arrived at the inn door (the present “Portsmouth Arms” Hotel), a girl ran breathless out, asking if Mr. Moore was in the coach. I then found that Boyse [Mr. Thomas Boyse of Bannow] was there waiting for me, and that his plan was for us to dine and sleep there, and proceed to Bannow in the morning, either direct or by way of Wexford. Found myself not in the least degree disappointed in the highly favourable impression which Boyse’s letters had given me of him. Evidently a well-informed, off-hand, gentleman-like, person.² A very agreeable dinner together, during which he detailed to me a good deal respecting the preparations made for receiving me at Bannow, expressing his regret, however, that this being the critical time of the year, when the people were getting in their harvest, the multitudes that otherwise would have flocked to meet me must necessarily be much diminished.

“Before dinner, had a most delicious walk by myself along the banks of the river Slaney, which, for two or three miles out of the town, are full of beauty, and this sunny evening was quite worthy of them. It was likewise delightful to me to be *alone* in such a scene, for it is only

¹Mr. George Preston, Bishop’s Registrar for the Diocese of Ferns, died at Clonhaston, Enniscorthy, March 29th, 1842.

²Mr. Thomas Boyse died at Bannow, January 15th, 1854.

alone I can enjoy Nature thoroughly ; men and women disturb such scenes dreadfully.

"26th.—After breakfast, set off for Wexford in a chaise and four, &c.

"28th.— . . . Dined with Boyse at his lodgings [in Wexford], and started in the mail for Enniscorthy at five or half-past five, having got rid of a crowd of old beggar-women, at the door, by throwing a few shillings among them for a scramble. . . . Found the coach stuffed with the children of the proprietor of the mail, himself being outside, all come to escort my *Bardship* a few miles out of town. Got to Enniscorthy about eight. Walked to take a peep at the memorable Vinegar Hill, and then to bed early."

Here I may observe that, whilst at Bannow, Moore received a deputation from the "Slaney Amateur Society," and, in the course of a very gracefully worded reply, made use of the following words: "It is to me a source of much pleasure and gratification to find that so many of the good people of Wexford are present to witness the proud triumph of the grandson of honest Tom Codd, of Corn Market." On the morning before returning to Enniscorthy, he visited his mother's old house in Wexford, and also the Presentation Convent, where he played on the organ at the request of the Superioress.

"29th.—Started in the coach for Dublin about ten, and was lucky in my company ; a very pretty young girl (who turned out to be a daughter of Alderman Lamprey's), and a musical aunt (a great singer of the 'Melodies'), being my companions," &c.

On November 3rd, 1835, three men were drowned in the "Slaney, near the bridge of Enniscorthy, owing to a flood in the river ; and, early in the following year, the old stone bridge was widened and partly rebuilt, at the joint expense of the trustees of the Earl of Portsmouth and of the Grand Jury, by a special presentment.

The malt-house of Mr. Robert Beale, Templeshannon, was burned on March 18th, 1836. At this period, the town boasted of a distillery, three breweries, two flour mills, three tanyards, a rope factory, pottery works, &c. A branch of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank was

opened on October 28th. In reference to the distillery, we read that, between the years 1818 and 1830, Mr. Jameson¹ expended £25,000 on it; and, in the latter year, it produced 55,594 gallons of spirits. This distillery ceased operations in 1840, mainly owing to the Total Abstinence crusade; and part of it was utilized by Mr. Pouden, of Daphne Castle, as a flour mill. However, it yet bears the name of the "Still," having previously been known as the "Forge." There was also a Lead Mining Company re-established at Kaim, which had been abandoned in 1810, and which, in 1836, lent an air of commercial prosperity to this quiet little village, four miles from Enniscorthy.²

Jacob William Goff was sworn in as Portrieve of Enniscorthy on September 29th, with Captain John Nixon Nunn as his deputy. In the same year, the ecclesiastical district of Monart was divided into the parishes of Monart and Ballycarney. In August, Earl Mulgrave, Lord-Lieutenant, made a short stay in Enniscorthy, *en route* for Edermine, where he conferred the honor of knighthood on Mr. John Power.

On October 24th, 1836, eight men, named Willcocks, Bates, Green, Ellis, Dowdall, Stewart, Gordon, and Gowan, were tried at the Enniscorthy Quarter Sessions for being prominent members of an Orange procession at Gorey, on the previous 12th of July, but they got off pretty well at

¹ The daughter of this Mr. Andrew Jameson married Mr. A. G. Davis, who acquired Fairfield in 1841, and converted it into a corn factory. It may be of interest to add that the sister of Mrs. Davis married Signor Marconi, of Italy, whose son is the now celebrated Signor Marconi, of "wireless telegraphy" fame. Consequently, Marconi is the son of Madame Marconi, *née* Jameson of Enniscorthy.

² Kennedy, in his *Banks of the Boro'*, writes: "I retain a pleasing, though faint, image of that little hamlet of Kaim, with its long, low-roofed chapel; the road is somewhat higher than the ground-level of the neat little thatched chapel and the other houses; the trees affording a snug shelter to the humble building. A clear stream bubbles by, and, with its sparkling wavelets and clear gravel bed, seen through the elder bushes, gives an impression of decency and cleanliness which do not always attach to clusters of Irish cottages." This was written regarding the year 1830. In 1840, the quantity of dressed ore at Kaim was 500 tons, but in 1843 it fell to 270 tons; and, in 1850, the works ceased.

the hands of the presiding barrister. One was imprisoned for a month, six for a fortnight, and the remaining prisoner was discharged on payment of a small fine.

Among the deaths for the year 1836, are chronicled those of the notorious Archibald Hamilton Jacob, Captain of the Vinegar Hill Rangers, on December 29th, and of Father Mark Devereux, Parish Priest of Clonmore, Ballybrennan, St. John's, &c., on December 5th, after an eventful rule of almost 62 years. On March 7th, 1837, died Thomas Sparrow, Salville House, Enniscorthy, one of the most extensive merchants in County Wexford.

The tithe war still dragged on; and, on April 5th, 1836, Mr. Patrick White, of Enniscorthy,¹ was arrested for non-payment of tithes, and committed to Wexford jail. Abortive tithe sales took place at Crefogue on May 5th; at Kilgibbon (the residence of Mr. John Lett), on May 20th; and at Boro' Hill (the residence of Col. FitzHenry), on October 24th. Another tithe sale took place at Ballyfad, on January 11th, 1837, but there was not a single bidder. Finally, tithes were abolished in Ireland by the bill of May, 1838, but, in reality, "they were only converted into a charge upon the land."

The need of a Catholic Church for Clonmore, Bree, St. John's, and Ballybrennan, was much felt at this period; and, on November 4th, 1837, Col. Alcock, of Wilton Castle, near Enniscorthy, generously gave an acre of ground, free for ever, for a chapel at Bree. From an official return we learn that, in 1837, there were ninety-two churches or chapels in the diocese of Ferns, twenty-two of which had been erected since 1827.

At the election of 1837 (as previously in 1835), Mr. James Power, of Edermine, and John Maher, of Ballinkeele, were triumphantly returned as the people's representatives for County Wexford—both staunch Liberals—and, on September 19th of the same year, they were entertained at a banquet in Enniscorthy. From 1833, the illustrious Daniel O'Connell laboured sedulously for Repeal of the Union; and "monster meetings" for that purpose

¹ Mr. Patrick White died at St. John's Cottage, Enniscorthy, on March 6th, 1865, aged 90 years.

were held all over Ireland. The only panacea vouchsafed by the British Government was the passing of the Poor Law Act, which became law in July, 1838, but which did not come into operation in Enniscorthy Union until Jan. 30th, 1840.

Here it is appropriate to give a brief description of the surroundings of an ordinary farm-house, in the district of Enniscorthy, as narrated by Alfred Webb, the Quaker, in 1838: "Much that was used in the house, from the carpets upon which we trod, to the candles by which we read in the evening, were of home manufacture. Spinning wheels were still worked in the cottages. There was a weaver in every village. The carts carried about 8 or 10 cwts. *Their wheels were blocks of wood. Most of the implements, even ploughs, were also of wood.* The corn was reaped with sickles. The flails sounded on the threshing-floors in autumn. The chaff was separated from the corn by letting the thrashed grain fall from sieves on large sheets placed in the middle of the field on a breezy day. The wheat for consumption at home was sent in sacks to the miller, and brought back ground the same day." Farm labourers only had 10d. per day. "At that, work was scarce, and whole and half wet days were not paid for. Their patience, cheerfulness, and goodness, profoundly impressed me, and have influenced my life."

Bishop Keating was a staunch supporter of O'Connell, as was also Sir John Power; and the "Liberator" held a monster meeting on the site of the old Friary Gardens, now known as "the Abbey," on December 4th, 1838. Subsequently, another monster meeting was held in a field near Carley's Bridge, now belonging to Mr. Matthew Ryan, still called the "Repeal" field.

Father Mathew, the great Apostle of Temperance,¹ visited the County Wexford in 1840, a county which can proudly proclaim itself as the place where the first Temperance Society in Europe was established—namely, at New Ross, on August 19th, 1829—and the zealous Capuchin Friar was received at Enniscorthy, on April 7th, 1840, by a fairly large body of total abstainers, with their

¹ Father Mathew died at Queenstown, December 8th, 1856.

president, Mr. Joshua Roberts.¹ A grand demonstration took place in the grounds of the Presentation Convent, and next day Father Mathew proceeded to Wexford, where he administered the "pledge" to over 2000 persons, in the yard fronting the Franciscan Church. There are still a few Wexfordians—including Mr. Ben Hughes, the Nestor of Irish journalism—who have kept the pledge since that memorable day, almost 59 years ago.

In 1840, the Municipal Reform Bill became law, and the old system of town government was abolished. Portrieve and Burgesses disappeared, and were replaced by that august body known as the Town Commissioners. However, it did not immediately come into operation in some provincial towns. On November 15th, 1841, the Lord-Lieutenant issued a proclamation for incorporating portions of baronies with other baronies in County Wexford. At this date, Samuel Carter Hall (whose wife, the well-known writer, was a native of Bannow) contested County Wexford; but Mr. James Power and Admiral Hatton were returned.

The population of Enniscorthy in 1841 was returned as 7016; and, on December 17th, the principal inhabitants of the town petitioned the Lord-Lieutenant to have the cleansing act enforced. In the following year, namely, on November 11th, 1842, Enniscorthy Workhouse was opened for the reception of inmates.

On the death of Bishop Fowler, Doctor J. T. O'Brien, Dean of Cork, was appointed by Sir Robert Peel as Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, in 1842, but went to reside, as did his predecessor, at the Palace, Kilkenny. The revenue of the united sees was then estimated at £6500 a year.

During the year 1843, "Repeal" was the watchword, and

¹ Mr. Joshua Roberts, agent to the Earl of Portsmouth, died at Moyne Cottage, Enniscorthy, on January 4th, 1843, and was succeeded in the agency by his son George C. Roberts, who still worthily fills the position. Joshua Roberts had founded the Enniscorthy Loan Fund Society in 1837, and his son also succeeded as secretary, a sinecure for which he drew £97 annually till 1897, when the Loan Fund became defunct, owing to the force of public opinion.

O'Connell surpassed himself in his energy, holding meetings in all parts of Ireland, assisted by the clergy, the "repeal wardens," and the temperance bands. At the "monster" Repeal meeting, held at Enniscorthy, in 1844, there were 125,000 persons present, including a large contingent from Ross, with twenty-one trade banners. O'Connell and the other traversers were sentenced on May 24th, 1844; and the appeal to the House of Lords was made in September, when the sentence was reversed. Bishop Keating, of Ferns, and seven other prelates, visited O'Connell in the Richmond Penitentiary, on June 24th; and the amount collected in Enniscorthy, for the "O'Connell rent," on November 17th of the same year, was £90, whilst Ferns contributed £33.

Doctor James Skelton, Enniscorthy, died January 6th, 1844, aged 100 years. Till his death he dressed in the picturesque costume of the 18th century, and he was a friend to all popular movements. In the summer of the same year, a branch of the Provincial Bank was established in the town, and still flourishes. There was a riot over the closing of Shiel's Well, Templeshannon, on July 29th, but it was quelled by the police.

The Liberator's last visit to Enniscorthy was on July 22nd, 1845, when he stayed for the night at Edermine, with Sir John Power; and next day he drove to Wexford, where a monster meeting was held at Ballinagee, attended by over 300,000 persons, followed by a banquet, in the large yard on the Crescent Quay, under the chairmanship of Mr. John H. Talbot.

In 1845, a very fine parochial school, named the "Adelaide," was established at Templescoby, near Enniscorthy, but was discontinued after three years, and has never since been re-opened. The place itself is more generally known as Scoby; but the older name was Temple Scoby, or *Sacro Bosco* = Holy Wood.

In 1846, the directors of the "Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow, and Dublin Railway Co.," projected by the eminent engineer Brunel, entered into an arrangement whereby the Carlow and Wexford Co. obtained the right of extending a branch of their line to Scarawalsh, three miles from Enniscorthy, but the whole project collapsed in

1849. Fifty years have since elapsed, but as yet there is no through route connecting Enniscorthy with Waterford and Cork.¹

During the year 1846, the great and never-to-be-forgotten famine stalked the land, and depopulated the country. The scenes of heartrending misery enacted in that sad year are too distressing to dwell upon. Over 300,000 people perished, of which number County Wexford supplied 300. The two houses in Enniscorthy, where a paltry dole of meal was issued for a time to the starving peasantry, are still pointed out as "the stirabout houses." Among the legacies of the "relief" works are the Hurstbourne Road, the Wexford Road, Island Road, and Mill Park Road. To us moderns it is a marvel how any coaches, prior to 1847, were able to travel on the "old coach road," still in existence, from Templeshannon to Edermine. The most nefarious system of bribery and speculation went on amongst the 10,000 officials of the "relief" works in Ireland, and thousands of pounds found their way into the pockets of agricultural labourers on public works, "where," as Mitchell writes, "they pretended to be cutting down hills and filling up hollows; and, with tongue in cheek, received half-wages for doing nothing."

The famine of 1847 was even more appalling than that of the previous year, and, on the 6th of March, there were 730,000 *heads* of families on the public works, which number, on April 10th, was reduced to 5723. It is no exaggeration to say that the British Government had carefully elaborated a system of political economy, which resulted in the famine of the years 1846 and 1847, and left Ireland the poorer, in October, 1847, by 2,000,000 *souls*.² Sad to chronicle, the only relief Lord Portsmouth

¹ Mr. Standish Motte actually constructed a line from Ballywilliam to Sparrowsland; and it was only then that the Dublin and Wicklow Railway Co. bethought of extending their line from Enniscorthy to Wexford. This gentleman, on January 5th, 1866, purchased the "plant" of the Wexford and Bagnalstown Railway for £25,000.

² Between the 1st of January, 1849, and the 31st December, 1897, over 4,000,000 of Irish emigrants sailed for America and Australia.

vouchsafed his tenantry in Enniscorthy was, on May 2nd, 1847, when he gave a dinner as a *solatium*, which may be described as a veritable feast of barmecides. To crown all, the great liberator, Daniel O'Connell, died at Genoa on May 15th, 1847.

A proclamation was issued by the Lord-Lieutenant on July 31st, 1848, declaring that the Act (11th Vic., c. 2), for better prevention of crime and outrage, shall apply to County Wexford. In the same year, according to the official report of Captain Larcom, the decrease in the number of holdings in Leinster was 10,617, not including the labourers. When Parliament met towards the close of January, 1849, the Queen requested her ministers "to proclaim any district under martial-law, and gave power to throw suspected persons into prison, without any charge against them."

Bishop Keating, after a trying illness of close on twelve months, expired at his residence in Enniscorthy, September 7th, 1849.¹ After his death, the old system of recommendation by *all the clergy* to the Holy See, which was superseded by the *concordat* of 1829, gave way to the now almost uniform usage, and Doctor Myles Murphy, Parish Priest of Wexford, and Vicar-General of the diocese of Ferns, was approved of by the Holy See as his successor.

A public meeting in favour of Free Trade was held at Enniscorthy, in the large open space known as "the Abbey," on January 9th, 1850, at which the principal speaker was the gifted orator Maurice Leyne. It was only at the close of the same year that the ancient system of town government, consigned to limbo by the Act of 1840, was abolished; and, on February 19th, 1851, the first election for Town Commissioners took place. Truly, it may be said, that the "ascendancy" party died hard.

The newly-fledged Town Commissioners of Enniscorthy soon made their influence felt; and, on January 16th, 1852, Enniscorthy was first lighted by gas, the event being

¹ As if in grim irony, Queen Victoria visited Ireland in 1849, at a time when an outraged country was barely recovering from famine and other evils, consequent upon British misrule. During a reign of 61 years, Her Majesty only spent twenty-seven whole days in Ireland.

duly celebrated by a public dinner at the "Portsmouth Arms" Hotel, on January 19th. A brief description of Enniscorthy at this period, from a contemporary writer, may prove interesting to the present generation:—

"From Edermine, to the town of Enniscorthy, the ride is very delightful, running along the margin of the placid and gentle Slaney, frequently so calm and clear as to bear a strong resemblance to a lake of liquid silver. On the opposite side of the river, St. John's, the seat of Doctor Hill, arrests the attention of the traveller, and, for its extent, can scarcely be surpassed for picturesque and scenic beauty. Enniscorthy is a comfortable and thriving town, through which the Slaney passes: several boats or lighters [called *cots*] are constantly employed in conveying corn and other agricultural produce to Wexford, and bringing, in return, iron, coals, limestone, and other commodities. About a quarter of a mile above the town the river, branching east and west, forms an island, which presents a handsome picture when viewed from the bridge, and is crowned in the distance by the several neat, fanciful seats, which appear on the banks of the river. . . . The church [St. Mary's] is a handsome building, and is embellished with a fine steeple and sweetly-toned bell: this church has recently undergone very extensive repairs and alterations, under the direction of Mr. Deane Butler, of Stephen's Green, Dublin.

"The Catholic Cathedral is a large and extensive building. . . . When completed, it will reflect much credit on the architect, and the spirited people who, in seasons of distress and destitution, have given such a manifestation of their piety and munificence.

"There is a Quaker's meeting-house in this town, where, in the midsummer season, an annual meeting is held, and numbers of the friends of this society attend on such occasions, when Enniscorthy becomes a very gay place; it is no uncommon thing to see members of the society from all parts of the empire, and even from America, attending these reunions. . . . In the vicinity of the Market House, recent improvements have been made, consisting of handsome and uniform houses, with neat shops, which would be considered no mean appendages even in towns of

a higher class ; certainly no part of our county can boast of anything to exceed them in point of taste and beauty. A very striking feature also presents itself on a part of the Abbey ground ; this is the house and extensive concerns of that enterprising merchant, Mr. Sinnott ;¹ a large capital must have been sunk in these improvements.

"The town of Enniscorthy is the property of the Earl of Portsmouth. The present earl is incapable of managing his own affairs ; his trustees, however, have shown excellent dispositions, and are considered just and benevolent stewards. Enniscorthy, like Wexford, is surrounded by a numerous resident gentry ; the people themselves are public-spirited and patriotic, and, not unfrequently, give a tone to the county. On the whole, Enniscorthy may be considered a handsome and improving place."

At the close of the year 1849, *sede vacante*, the executors of Bishop Keating quietly leased the bishop's house, on Summer Hill, to George C. Roberts, sub-agent to the Earl of Portsmouth, who took up his residence therein. The whole transaction is involved in some obscurity, but it is sufficient to note that the two trustees, namely, Messrs. Laurence Doyle and William Moran, gave over the episcopal property to Mr. Roberts for a paltry sum. Bishop Murphy was never able to get back the house—which is still (September, 1898), occupied by Mr. Roberts—and so in May, 1850, he built a small residence adjoining the present schools of the Presentation Convent. He appointed Father James Roche as Parish Priest of Wexford ; and, strange as it may appear, as late as the year 1852 there was no parochial church in the large borough town of Wexford, the only available place of worship for Roman Catholics being the Franciscan Friary Chapel. In 1852, the Very Rev. Denis Browne, Rector of Enniscorthy, was promoted by the Earl of Derby to THE DEANERY OF EMLY.

¹Mr. Nicholas Sinnott, the Abbey, died February 21st, 1876.

ENNISCORTHY, 1852—1874.



N May 27th, 1852, there was a tremendous fight in Enniscorthy, on Castle Hill, over the county election.¹ The *Wexford People* was established on January 1st, 1853, and still flourishes.² Mohurry Flax Mill, the property of Mr. John Rowe, was burned February 18th, 1853. An exhibition of arts and industries was opened in Enniscorthy on October 2nd. At this date the "Coffee House," on the Turret Rocks (Hurstbourne Road), which was built in a quasi-castellated style, was a fashionable resort.

Newton, Earl of Portsmouth, died January 9th, 1854; and in the death-roll for the year 1855, the first name is that of Sarsfield Colclough, of Duffrey Hall, on January 2nd, aged 87 years, at Douglas, Isle of Man, who was buried at Templeshanbo.³ A great tenant-right meeting was held at Wexford, on January 23rd, presided over by Mr. Patrick Keating, of Moneyhore (near Enniscorthy); and, among the speakers, was Charles Gavan Duffy, M.P. The Town's Improvement Act was adopted by the Enniscorthy Town Commissioners, on May 22nd of the same year. About this time, the steamer "Star," which had been built by Sir Richard Musgrave, in 1843, for the river Blackwater, between Cappoquin and Youghal, and had been found unprofitable in 1850, plied on the Slaney between Enniscorthy and Wexford, but, proving un-

¹ The present Sir Charles Gavan Duffy was returned for New Ross in 1853.

² The *Wexford Guardian* was incorporated with it in January, 1857. It is worth recording that the last number of the *Wexford Conservative*, which was started on September 19th, 1832, appeared April 4th, 1846.

³ From this date (1855) the grand old residence of the Colclough family at Templeshanbo gradually became ruinous.

remunerative, was withdrawn. Here I may add that the river Slaney is navigable for ships of 100 tons burden, as far as Bellevue.

On February 2nd, 1856, there was a meeting of the Enniscorthy tenantry, to present an address of congratulation to the Earl of Portsmouth, on the birth of a son and heir. On June 4th, a public meeting was held to oppose the erection of a bridge over the Slaney at Edermine, the reason alleged being that it would prove an obstruction to the trade on the river. Singular to relate, the like proposal was brought on in 1896, and, though it met with some little opposition, was finally approved of. A splendid iron bridge was completed in March, 1898, which, while allowing ample head-room for "cots," is decidedly advantageous. The Admiralty steamer, "Shamrock," arrived at Pouldarrig, near Brownswood, on August 14th, 1856, for the purpose of surveying the river Slaney.

In the winter of 1855, Bishop Murphy began to show signs of over-work; and, in May, 1856, he visited his native place at Ballinoulart, in the parish of Litter, where he died in the home of his youth, on August 14th of the same year. His successor in the see of Ferns was Father Thomas Furlong, Professor of Theology in Maynooth College, who, after two years, went to reside at St. Peter's College, Wexford; and the house in Enniscorthy, occupied by Bishop Murphy, was incorporated with the schools of the Presentation Convent.

Lieutenant-General Philip Hay sold his ancestral estate of Ballinkeele, near Enniscorthy, to John Maher, and died August 8th, 1856. Lovers of sport do not require to be told of the famous stables of Ballinkeele;¹ and, from 1850 to 1898, many a world-renowned winner has come from them, one of the most celebrated being the mare "Frigate," the winner of the Grand National in 1889.

On February 19th, 1857, the Rev. Edmund Trouton, Protestant Curate of Enniscorthy, established the Young

¹ Mr. Maher's horse, "Cranebrook," won the Doncaster Cup, September 17th, 1846. The gallant owner died at Ballinkeele, June 4th, 1860. Mr. M. A. Maher, the present landlord of Ballinkeele, upholds the best traditions of the turf.

Men's Christian Association. For some time, the meetings of this body were held in a room in the Castle, which had been got for them through the influence of the Very Rev. Dean Browne, Rector of Enniscorthy. Some months later, this zealous clergyman was appointed Curate of Carlow, where he died June 9th, 1859, at the early age of 28 years.

The town of Enniscorthy had long felt the need of a paper of its own, and so, in 1857, the first number of the *Watchman* was published by Mr. George Griffiths, who was also editor, printer, and proprietor. During its existence of thirty years, it was one of the best provincial papers in Ireland, and contained articles worthy of any organ in the United Kingdom.

A public meeting was held on June 23rd, 1858, to purchase a fire-engine for the use of the town, and though a large sum was subscribed, not even a bucket, much less an engine, was procured until the year 1875. We are now at the close of the year 1898, and Enniscorthy is without a fire-engine, so that, if any large concern took fire, the prospect is not pleasant to think of.

Messrs. Samuel and Abraham Grubb Davis founded the Fairfield, St. John's, and Manor Mills, Enniscorthy, in 1858.¹ On May 19th, 1859, Messrs. MacMahon and George were returned as M.P.'s for County Wexford. In the local death-roll for the year 1860, we find the names of Stevens Goff, sub-Sheriff of County Wexford, on January 25th, and the Rev. Walter Greene, of Greenmount, near Enniscorthy, on June 27th.

It is much to be regretted that the bill introduced by John Edward Redmond, M.P., at the opening of the Parliamentary Session of 1861, for the deepening of the Bar and the improvement of Wexford Harbour, although backed by John George, Q.C., Solicitor General, had to be withdrawn in consequence of opposition from the Wexford traders. This project was a pet one of Mr. Redmond's, who had been previously successful in reclaiming the North

¹ St. John's Mill was reconstructed by Mr. Davis, in 1863; and, in 1879, the Fairfield Mill was employed solely for grinding Indian corn.

and South "Slob Lands," consisting of 2500, and 3000, acres respectively.

The mail coach between Dublin and Wexford left the General Post Office for the last time on June 30th, 1863. The mails up to this date were timed to arrive in Enniscorthy at 4.25 a.m. daily, and the time of departure was at 7.15 p.m. It was only on September 18th, 1863, that the first direct train from Dublin arrived in Enniscorthy; but the line was not opened for traffic till November 16th.

As late as the year 1863 the Lunatic Asylum for County Wexford was at Carlow, but on October 1st of that year the foundation stone of the present District Lunatic Asylum was laid at Killagoley, about one mile from Enniscorthy—a most desirable site. The buildings proceeded apace, and, on December 23rd, 1867, the first meeting of the governors was held.

The death-roll for the year 1863 included Mr. William Donovan, Solicitor, on January 7th, and Father Thomas Warren, C.C., on January 8th. Dean Browne, Rector of Enniscorthy, preached his last sermon on May 3rd, and he died on March 14th, 1864, being succeeded by Archdeacon Corvan.

During the year 1866 there was much excitement by reason of the Fenian scare; and, on February 10th of that year, the Lord-Lieutenant issued a proclamation declaring that "the provisions of the 'Peace Preservation Act' shall apply to and be in force in and for County Wexford."

Nicholas Ellis, who had been for close on forty years agent for the County Wexford estates of the Earl of Portsmouth, died on the 27th of January, 1867.¹ During the same year a fine brewery was established by Messrs. E. and J. Lett, on the Mill Park Road, Enniscorthy, which is still flourishing.

The Fenian movement was scarcely perceptible in Enniscorthy, and the only incident worth chronicling is the fact that on June 9th, 1867, the police hauled down a green

¹ His son, Hercules Ellis, was a distinguished *litterateur*, and produced a large volume of poems in 1851, dedicated to the Prince of Wales, entitled, *The Rhyme Book*. He was for some years agent for the Enniscorthy estates, and died on the 28th of August, 1878.

flag which was discovered floating from the top of the ruined Windmill on Vinegar Hill. A year later, namely, on June 12th, 1868, the constabulary made a vigorous search for arms in various houses throughout the town. In 1868 the Earl of Portsmouth gave a free plot of land at the Moyne for the Protestant cemetery, but it was walled in at the expense of the parishioners. Father Thomas Roche, administrator, was promoted to the pastorate of Lady's Island in 1868, and on October 25th of that year, was the recipient of a presentation from the people of Enniscorthy, irrespective of creed or class.¹

The introduction of the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill by Mr. Gladstone, on March 1st, 1869, showed incontestably what an anomalous position the Protestant Church occupied in Ireland. Some of the statistics brought forward were simply appalling. Out of 1387 benefices, forty-one contained *no* Protestants, and twenty, less than five—whilst fifty-seven had no provision for the cure of souls; 210 contained *no* church; and in 157 benefices there was no divine service. As regards the County Wexford, which is within the diocese of Ferns, some of the parishes were miserably small, one of them, namely, St. Dolough's [St. Olaf's or Tulloch's], Wexford, being only *forty yards square*; and, in many cases, six parishes were united to form one cure. Suffice it to add that the Irish Church was formally disestablished and disendowed on July 26th, 1870. The final severance, in an official way, of the town of Enniscorthy, from the united dioceses of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin was, by the transfer of the Consistorial Court and Registry Office²—held in Enniscorthy Castle—to Kilkenny in 1872.

On April 20th, 1870, the Enniscorthy Choral Union

¹ Father Roche, subsequently Archdeacon of Ferns, died on the 27th of December, 1896.

² When a new partition of district registries was made in 1858, the Ferns diocesan collection of testamentary instruments was transferred to the registry at Waterford. The wills of the diocese of Ferns, now in the Public Record Office, Dublin, are in number 4214, dating from 1600 to the year 1846. Mr. Thomas Keough, the last registrar of the diocese of Ferns, who lived in Enniscorthy, died November 12th, 1873.

gave its first concert, under the conductorship of Mr. Thomas Blanchard. The waterworks were put into operation on August 3rd of the same year. The Masonic Lodge was re-opened on February 13th, 1871.

Here it is as well to give a brief synopsis of the census returns of County Wexford, as furnished in 1871. The extent of the county is given as 576,588 statute acres, of which 244,276 are under tillage, 273,884 under pasture, 11,763 under plantations, and 42,997 acres under waste, bog, rivers, mountains, &c. The estimated value of the ten baronies is set down as £371,566. There are 138 civil parishes, six parts of parishes, and 2,363 townlands—with a population of 132,666, and having 24,982 inhabited houses. As regards religious denominations, there were 120,356 Roman Catholics, 11,296 Protestants, 367 Methodists, 360 Presbyterians, 114 Quakers, 73 Dissenters, 24 "Non-Sectarian Protestants," 16 Baptists, 13 Independents, 12 Plymouth Brethren, and a few other sectaries.

It was only on August 17th, 1872, that the first passenger train came *through* from Dublin to Wexford. As yet there was no railway communication to New Ross, Bagnalstown, &c., and the coaches still ran. Although, on December 12th, 1872, there was a public banquet given in Wexford to celebrate the inauguration of the works of the Waterford and Wexford railway, the scheme collapsed, but it is at present occupying a large share of public attention, as part of the projected route between Rosslare and Cork. In September of the same year, the train arrangements from Enniscorthy to Dublin were 6.25 and 10.5 a.m., and 3.50 and 6.15 p.m.; whilst the Dublin trains were due at Enniscorthy at 9.15 a.m., 12.40, 4.35, and 8.50 p.m.

In consequence of the irregularities ensuing by reason of holding a fowl market in Enniscorthy at an unusually early hour on Thursday mornings (especially in the case of females, who had been exposed from time to time to insult), the Town Commissioners, at the request of Bishop Furlong, passed a bye-law, which came into operation on December 5th, 1872, forbidding, under a penalty not exceeding 40s., the sale of fowl, on Castle Hill and Abbey Square, before 7 o'clock a.m. from March 25th to Septem-

ber 29th, and before 8 o'clock a.m. during the remainder of the year.

At the annual election held on October 15th, 1872, for Town Commissioners, the following members¹ were returned for the year 1873 :—

Matthew Furlong, Market Square, *Chairman*.

George C. Roberts, J.P., Summer Hill.

Patrick O'Rourke, M.D., New Street.

P. Dixon, Market Square.

Philip Minchin Cooke, Market Street.

Joshua Bobiear, Templeshannon.

Patrick W. Casey, Market Square.

James Devereux, Templeshannon.

Benjamin Connor, Castle Street.

James Moran, Market Square.

Thomas Sinnott, Castle Street.

James Wilkinson, Templeshannon.

Joseph Kennedy, Market Street.

John Whitford, Templeshannon.

Bernard Maguire, Slaney Street.

Thomas Wilkinson, Castle Hill, *Clerk*.

¹ All these estimable Town Commissioners have passed over to the great majority, except George C. Roberts, J.P., and Benjamin Connor, who, however, are no longer connected with the civic fathers. Mr. Thomas Wilkinson, solicitor, is still (September, 1898) Town Clerk, but he has performed the office by deputy for eight years past.

MODERN ENNISCORTHY.



ON January 20th, 1874, a public meeting was held at Enniscorthy in favour of closing public-houses on Sundays and Holy-days ; and, as a result, all Catholic spirit shop-keepers in the diocese of Ferns have ever since complied with the diocesan legislation in regard to shutting their doors on Holy-days of obligation.

The first election by ballot for Wexford borough took place on February 5th, 1874, when William Archer Redmond was returned, followed by the election of Mr. Dunbar for New Ross ; and, on February 17th, Sir George Bowyer and Chevalier Keyes O'Clery were returned for Wexford County. At this date Mr. D. V. Beatty, Borodale, was Master of the Wexford Hunt,¹ the Club House of which was at Foulksmill ; and Major Hill had a splendid pack of otter hounds, fixing his head-quarters for the season at FitzPatrick's (now Nolan's) hotel, Enniscorthy. In September of the same year, the Wexford United Agricultural Society held its annual show at Enniscorthy.

Bishop O'Brien, of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, died December 12th, 1874, in his eighty-third year, and was succeeded by the Very Rev. Robert S. Gregg, Dean of Cork, on March 4th, 1875. In 1874, as appears from an official directory, there were forty-nine Protestant incumbents in the diocese of Ferns ; and seventeen parishes had curates assisting. Archdeacon Corvan, Rector of Enniscorthy, died January 22nd, 1875, aged 71 years, and had as successor the late Canon J. C. Murdoch. At this date there were fifty-two schools in connexion with the

¹ On November 4th, 1872, there was a presentation of a service of plate, valued at £300, given to David V. Beatty, on completing his thirtieth year as Master of the Wexford Hunt. Borodale, the charming seat of the late Mr. Beatty, who died October 15th, 1897, is three miles or less from Enniscorthy, but its beauty is fast departing.

Ferns Protestant Orphan Society. In this year, also, Alderman Greene, J.P., was in his *seventh* year of office as Mayor of Wexford.

Bishop Furlong died at St. Peter's College, Wexford, November 12th, 1875, aged 73 years, and was succeeded by Father Michael Warren, Superior of the House of Missions, Enniscorthy. Bishop Warren resided in his cathedral town in the house now occupied by District-Inspector Flower, at Blackstoops. He was an uncompromising advocate of total abstinence, and, owing to his efforts, a Catholic Total Abstinence Society was formed at Enniscorthy on the 1st of November, 1876. A monster temperance procession took place in the town on St. Patrick's Day, 1877, attended by about 3000 persons, accompanied by four bands.

On July 28th, 1877, the Earl and Countess of Portsmouth entertained their Enniscorthy tenantry, the dinner being provided in the Market House, which was then the only place for public receptions, concerts, &c., in the town. The burning subject of the year was Home Rule, and Mr. Charles S. Parnell was very much *en evidence*, but the Enniscorthy tenantry were much more anxious for a settlement of the land question.

In 1878 the Bank of Ireland opened an office in Enniscorthy, with Mr. J. P. Whelan as agent or manager. During the same year Bishop Gregg, of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, was translated to Cork, and had as successor Dr. W. Pakenham Walsh, Dean of Cashel, on August 30th. At the close of the year, over 19,000 persons were on the roll of "total abstainers" in the diocese of Ferns, owing to the zeal of Bishop Warren, who also provided a good reading room, for the Catholics of Enniscorthy, in the Lancasterian Schools, adjoining the Cathedral.

During the year 1879, the land agitation went on vigorously; and the establishment of the Land League helped to put Mr. Gladstone again into power. The members returned for County Wexford were John Barry and Garret Byrne, whilst W. A. Redmond was again elected for the borough. It is of local interest to add that, on January 1st, 1880, the *Wexford People* began to be issued twice weekly—Wednesdays and Saturdays—under

the proprietorship of the late Mr. Edward Walsh. In 1881, we find Timothy Martin Healy (better known as "Tim"), as representative of Wexford borough; and Joseph William Foley was replaced as M.P. for New Ross by John E. Redmond.

The census returns for the County Wexford, in 1881, show that there were then 25,148 families, being a decrease since 1871 of 2225 families. The number of inhabited houses was given as 23,592, showing a decrease since 1871 of 1390 houses. There were 112,710 Roman Catholics, 10,015 Protestants, 375 Methodists, 278 Presbyterians, 102 Quakers, and 107 of other denominations. The population of Enniscorthy was 5666, being an increase during ten years of seventy-two inhabitants. At this date the seven largest landowners in County Wexford were as follows:—Lord Carew, 17,830 acres—valuation, £9070; Lady Adelaide Forbes, 15,216 acres—valuation, £8840; The Marquis of Ely, 14,023 acres—valuation, £9168; The Earl of Courtown, 14,268 acres—valuation, £8605; Viscount Powerscourt, 11,729 acres—valuation, £4453; Lord Templemore, 11,327 acres—valuation, £7046; and The Earl of Portsmouth, 10,189 acres—valuation, £9820.

In 1883 Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., severed his connexion with Wexford, and was elected for Monaghan, being replaced as member for the borough of Wexford by Mr. W. H. K. Redmond. The ancient borough of New Ross was disfranchised in 1885.

The amiable and zealous Bishop Warren died at Enniscorthy on the 22nd of April, 1884, and was succeeded in the see of Ferns by Doctor James Browne, who took up his residence in Wexford. During the years 1885 and 1886, there was much political excitement in Enniscorthy over the two burning questions of Home Rule and a Land Bill; and the plan of campaign had been tried on some estates in County Wexford. During these two years, the parliamentary representatives of North and South Wexford respectively were John Edward Redmond¹ and John Barry. I may add that, from 1885 to 1889, Charles

¹ Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., resigned in 1891, with a view of contesting Cork.

Stewart Parnell was the "Uncrowned King of Ireland," and he certainly held the Liberal Government "in the hollow of his hand." His power waned after the exposure in the divorce court; and he died on October 6th, 1891.

Here it is opportune to give the census for 1891 as regards County Wexford—consisting of 10 baronies, 144 parishes, and 1600 townlands. Population, 111,788. Houses, 22,238. We find 102,180 Catholics, 8779 Protestants, 369 Methodists, 250 Presbyterians, and 199 of other denominations, including Quakers, who only numbered 115.¹ For this population there were 12 superior schools, with 589 pupils—*i.e.*, 537 Catholics and 52 Protestants; and 200 primary schools, with an attendance of 15,659, of whom 13,994 were Catholics. Out of a total population of 111,788, there were 350 who could speak Irish as well as English. The population of Enniscorthy was returned as 5648, being a decrease of 18 since 1881; and there were 292 municipal electors. It is sad to chronicle that the population of New Ross, which in 1881 had a population of 6670, was reduced in ten years to 5562.

In 1891 the Town Commissioners got a splendid new reservoir built near Drumgoole, at a cost of £2800, which money had been loaned from the Board of Works at £3·10 per cent. This most desirable reservoir covers an acre, and is an inestimable boon to the town. The fifth Earl of Portsmouth died October 4th, 1891, and was succeeded by the present earl, who married Miss Pease of Darlington.

The Athenæum, Enniscorthy, was built in 1892, and is practically a Catholic Young Men's Society, although its doors are open to, and availed of by, all creeds. There is a magnificent concert hall in connexion with this institution, also a reading room, two billiard rooms, smoke room, &c. It is managed by a body of governors, under the patronage of Bishop Browne.

Messrs. Thomas J. Healy and Peter French were returned as M.P.'s for North and South Wexford respectively

¹ As a striking proof of the decline of Quakerism in Ireland—and County Wexford was once a stronghold of the Friends—I need only instance the fact that, according to the annual report for 1896, there were only eight Quaker marriages in that year.

in 1895, and are "paid members." The land agitation gradually died out, but fortunately, in 1895, matters seemed to brighten considerably for the tenants; and the Ashbourne Act was freely availed of.

In July, 1896, Father William Fortune, administrator, was appointed Parish Priest of Piercestown, and was replaced in Enniscorthy by Father Patrick O'Connor, Senior Curate. In August of the same year, the Enniscorthy Town Commissioners availed themselves of the advantages of the Town's Improvement Act, and Doctor Roberts was appointed Borough Justice. Another notable incident of this year was the enforcing of a rule by which all shop-keepers had to remove from the public footways the various articles of trade which they had from time immemorial been accustomed to expose for sale, and which, it must now be admitted, was a most objectionable custom.

Early in 1897, negotiations went on in regard to the Coolgreany tenants, who had "stood out" for ten years, and a settlement was effected, but not an advantageous one for the poor evicted peasants, after one of the greatest struggles in the "land war." On June 7th, there was a public meeting held at Enniscorthy regarding Mr. Balfour's proposed bill, especially in reference to the matter of county cess and poor rates.

Bishop Walshe resigned the united sees of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, on October 1st, 1897; and, on October 20th, the bench of bishops selected Canon Crozier as his successor, who was duly consecrated, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, on November 30th.

The Town Commissioners, on June 16th, 1897, very properly refused to memorialize for any of the Australian mutton which had been sent over to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. At a special meeting of this body on October 6th, a local committee was formed in view of the visit of the Americans, who were expected in Enniscorthy on the occasion of the 1898 centenary; and a general meeting of the County Wexford committee was held at Enniscorthy on January 1st, 1898, to make due preparations for the Vinegar Hill demonstration.

Here we can justly pause, as the events of 1898 are of too recent occurrence to be chronicled or commented upon;

and we shall conclude this historical sketch of Enniscorthy with a brief mention of the public buildings, followed by some statistics from a directory of the current year.

The public buildings are : The Cathedral, St. Mary's Church, Presbyterian Church, Wesleyan Chapel, Friends' Meeting House, Presentation Convent, Chapel, and Schools ; Mercy Convent, Chapel, and Schools ; Loretto Convent and Day School ; Convent of St. John of God ; Mission House, Christian Schools, and residence, the Athenæum, Church Institute, St. Aidan's Academy, Model School, National Bank, Provincial Bank, Bank of Ireland, District Lunatic Asylum, Market House, Court House, Workhouse, Fever Hospital, Dispensary, &c. There is also a fine Presbyterian manse ; in addition to which there are club rooms for the Gælic, Foresters, and other societies, as well as the Co-operative Society's Warehouse. There is an excellent woollen factory at Carley's Bridge, of which Mr. Joseph Ryan is the proprietor ; and at the same place is a large brick factory, with up-to-date plant, belonging to Mr. George Owens. Enniscorthy can also boast of extensive iron works, corn factory, pottery, tannery, flour mills, two breweries, numerous malting stores, and mineral water factories ; whilst it still holds a great reputation for barley. Two newspapers are published weekly, viz., the *Enniscorthy News* and *The Guardian*.

Enniscorthy Poor Law Union contains thirty-two electoral divisions, with an area of 196,599 statute acres, having a valuation of £110,425. Quarter Sessions are held twice annually ; and Petty Sessions—as also a Town Court—every Monday. The market days are Thursdays and Saturdays, and there are thirteen fairs in the year, including two in August. Under the Town's Improvement Act there are fifteen commissioners, one-third of whom go out of office on October 15th of each year, but are eligible for re-election. The town revenue is at present about £530. Enniscorthy is in the parliamentary division of North Wexford, with 292 electors. The present population is about 5800, of whom 5200 are Catholics.

ENNISCORTHY CASTLE.



IN the preceding pages various allusions have been made to this fine old Anglo-Norman Castle, commenced by Maurice Prendergast in 1199, and finished by his son Philip, in 1205 or 1206. It was walled in and entrenched by Gerald Prendergast, between the years 1225 and 1228, who died in August, 1251. It then became the property of Maurice Rochford, by his marriage to Matilda Prendergast, and was held by the Rochfords from 1252 to 1327. After the year 1328 the MacMurroughs regained much of their old inheritance, including Enniscorthy, though it was strongly disputed by the Rochfords. Donal MacMurrough was treacherously slain on the 3rd of the Nones of June, 1347; and, in 1354, *the* MacMurrough was put to death by the English of the Pale, who also killed Dermot MacMurrough and his son Gerald, in 1368. From 1368, Enniscorthy Castle was held by Donogh MacMurrough, King of Leinster, until the year 1375, when he was slain by Geoffrey Wall, near Carlow, "on the feast of St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin," *i.e.*, on July 26th.

The renowned Art MacMurrough, King of Leinster, recovered the town, castle, and district of Enniscorthy, in 1377, and held it triumphantly from 1377 until his death on January 12th, 1418, being succeeded in the kingship of Leinster by his son Gerald. From 1428 to 1476, Donald *Fuscus* Kavanagh, King of Leinster, resided in princely state in the castle, which was the period of its greatest splendour. Murrough *Ballagh*, King of Leinster, died at Enniscorthy Castle in 1518, as did also Murtogh Kavanagh (1521—1545). With the renunciation by Cahir MacArt Kavanagh of the title of "MacMurrough," on November 4th, 1550, the power of the Kavanaghs dwindled away, and Enniscorthy Castle, having lapsed to the Crown, was leased to Gabriel Blake on February 13th, 1552. It

was sacked by Sir Edmund Butler, on August 14th, 1569, and was untenanted from 1569 to 1582.

Edmund Spenser, the poet, was leased the manor and "ruinous castle" of Enniscorthy, on December 6th, 1581, but never came to the town "through fear of the Kavanaghs," and so he privately conveyed his lease to Sir Richard Sinnott, of Ballybrennan, which was ratified by the Crown on December 3rd, 1582. Finally, in 1587, Sir Henry Wallop purchased the Enniscorthy estates from Sir Richard Sinnott, which his descendant, the Earl of Portsmouth, still holds ; and the title deeds were ratified by the Crown on November 4th, 1595. Between the years 1595 and 1598 Wallop put the castle in thorough repair, but his son (Sir Henry) preferred to live in the Franciscan Friary, who died November 5th, 1624, being succeeded in his inheritance by his son Robert.

On September 29th, 1649, Enniscorthy Castle, which had been in the hands of the Confederates since 1642, surrendered to Cromwell, as stated in the historical portion of this work ; and this accounts for its marvellous preservation. Nothing of any interest in the history of the castle is chronicled from 1660 to 1745, but in the latter year it was repaired by the first Earl of Portsmouth, after which it was leased to Adam Colclough. It was a district prison in 1798 and 1799, as I have previously mentioned, and was thoroughly restored as a modern residence between the years 1806 and 1812, when it was occupied by Mr. Hawkins from 1812 to 1820, who sub-let it to Mr. Bruen, in 1820. This Mr. Hawkins, law agent to the Earl of Portsmouth, got a lease of the castle and adjoining houses ; and after his death the property passed to his daughter, Mrs. Anne Wallace-James, of Ballycoursey. In 1836, it was sub-let to Dudley Colclough, after whom came Captain J. N. Nunn ; and, in 1850, it was occupied by the Protestant curate of the town, Rev. John Charters.

From 1852 to 1863 it was occupied by Mr. Thomas Keough, Registrar of the diocese of Ferns (a cousin of Bishop O'Brien), and the ground floor was used as the estate office, the upper floor being utilized as a printing office by the late Mr. John Pilkington, who founded the *Enniscorthy News*. After the year 1863 the castle became

gradually ruinous, but it was temporarily made use of to billet the extra police force during the Fenian scare of 1867, from which date it has sadly suffered from the effects of Time's destroying hand. Finally in March, 1897, the lease expired, and it reverted to the noble owner, who sold it in March, 1898, to Mr. P. J. Roche, Woodville, New Ross. Two of the towers can still be ascended, and a capital view may be had from the top.

ST. JOHN'S PRIORY.

ABOUT a mile and a-half from Enniscorthy is the townland of St. John's, adjoining which is the Ringwood. However, the traveller will seek in vain for any trace of St. John's *Priory*, but the old cemetery is still a well-known spot, and is called "The Corrig churchyard."

St. John's Priory was founded, in 1232, by Gerald Prendergast, Lord of Enniscorthy, for Regular Canons of St. Victor—of course, Anglo-Normans—and it was made a cell to the great Abbey of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Dublin. By the terms of the foundation charter, which was signed by John St. John, Bishop of Ferns, Gerald Prendergast gave, "in pure and perpetual alms for the soul of his father and mother, whose bodies rest here, the site of the said Priory, with all the adjacent lands, the tithes of his mills at Enniscorthy, timber from his woods," &c., and the rectories of St. Senan (Temple Shannon), St. Brigid (Kilbride), and St. John, together with two carucates of land on the river Urrin, Monksgrange, (near Killan), &c. The community were to consist of "four brethren and a Prior."

In a little work like the present I cannot enter fully into the history of this venerable monastic foundation, but it is sufficient to state that it flourished until the sad period 1537—41. It was leased to John Travers, Master of the Ordnance, on February 3rd, 1544; and in October, 1552, a new lease was granted to Lord Mountgarret, after

whom it lapsed to the Earl of Ormonde. On November 24th, 1593, it was leased by the Earl (Andrew and James White being then enfeoffed of same) to Edward Eustace; and the lands included "the townland of St. John aforesaid, and 400 acres of land in Ballinacargin, Tomduff, Ballinapierce, and Monaghery, together with the rectories of Temple Thomas (Kilthomas) and Ballyhuskard, &c.—annual value, besides reprises, £20."

We next find it the property of Donogh O'Brien, who was "transplanted" in 1653, after whom it was allotted to William Cleburne, nephew to Sir Gerald Lowther, who died in 1682, whose son William, described as "of St. John's Manor, County Wexford, died in October, 1684. He was succeeded in the property by his brother Richard, whose death is chronicled in 1704. After some vicissitudes it passed into the Hill family. Doctor Charles Hill lived at St. John's from 1779 till his death on August 25th, 1853, at the advanced age of 102 years. The estate then passed to Charles H. Hill, J.P., who died January 9th, 1870; after whom came the Rev. Hugh R. Hill. It then got into chancery, and in 1897 was purchased by Mr. Edward Kavanagh, Enniscorthy, the present owner.

To the antiquarian, there are some interesting monuments in the Corrig churchyard—the ancient monastic cemetery of St. John's—ranging from the year 1720 to 1896, including three tombstones erected to persons who fell in 1798. For ten years past the Corrig has been disused as a burial ground, but occasional interments still take place.

The present mansion house, although "ruinated," is the veritable *locale* of St. John's Priory, and it contains some of the old quoins and arches. The situation is delightful, and was much admired by the poet Moore. It commands one of the most charming reaches on the river Slaney, and is well worthy of a visit—an ideal spot for a hermitage.

Gone, alas! are the days when the regular Austin Canons of St. Victor chanted the praises of God in this sequestered vale, near the confluence of the Urrin and the Slaney, but the place-names *St. John's*, *St. John's Mills*, *St. John Street*, still remind the traveller of this ancient cell, and perpetuate the original foundation of St. John's Priory.

FRANCISCAN FRIARY.

DONALD *Fuscus* (the Brown) Kavanagh, King of Leinster, founded a noble Friary for Franciscans (or Friars Minor) in Enniscorthy, which was solemnly dedicated to the service of God on October 18th, 1460. The fame of the new foundation completely overshadowed that of St. John's Priory; and the Friars Minor of Enniscorthy were in a flourishing condition before the close of the fifteenth century. Under Art *Boy* Kavanagh, King of Leinster (1511—1518) this Observantine Friary was at the zenith of its splendour.

The Friary was suppressed in 1539; and on February 4th, 1544, it was granted for ever to John Travers, "by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee, and a rent of 2s. 2d." The conventual buildings, including the church, covered over two acres; and the adjoining mills, gardens, orchards, &c., occupied the site of the present "Abbey," the Bank of Ireland, and the extensive stores of Messrs. Davis, Mr. P. O'Neill, and Letts' brewery. From an inquisition of 1545, we find the Friary had various appurtenances—*e.g.*, "a church and belfry, a chapter house, dormitory, hall, four chambers, a kitchen, two orchards, water mills, gardens," &c. A new lease of the premises was granted to Gabriel Blake, on February 13th, 1552.

During the reign of Queen Mary, the Friars had possession of their conventual church, and held it till 1560. The tenancy of Sir Richard Synnott in the Friary, 1581 to 1587, was merely nominal. We read in Wadding's *Annals* that, in the year 1582, "Father Teague O'Murchoe [Murphy], guardian, with the vicar and the sacristan, were seized in the Franciscan Convent, Enniscorthy, by Sir Henry Wallop and a troop of soldiers, and after being tortured for five days were put to death for the faith." This wretched man Wallop, who became the owner of Enniscorthy, in 1587, died a terrible death in 1599, as did also his wife some months later.

On the death of Elizabeth, in 1603, the Friars took possession of their ancient church, but were ousted in September of the same year. Nothing daunted, the Fathers continued their ministrations, of course, in disguise, but their old convent was profanely utilized for a sessions house. From 1642 to 1649, while the Confederates were in power, the Friars got back their church, and lived near the "Abbey"—Father Bonaventure MacLoughlin being Guardian. Then came the ruthless Cromwell, on whose arrival the poor Friars fled to Wexford. The proprietor of the monastic property, Robert Wallop, who converted the convent into a magnificent mansion house, narrowly escaped being hanged, as before stated, and he died in the Tower in 1667. Still, a regular succession of Guardians was kept up in Enniscorthy, and Father Columba Kavanagh, O.S.F., did much spiritual good from 1729 to 1750. After the year 1780, the Franciscans ceased their ministrations in Enniscorthy, but a *titular* "guardian" was appointed until the year 1867. A portion of the old convent served the purpose of a school from 1804 to 1826, the principal, or philomath, being an estimable Protestant clergyman, known to the last generation as "old Simpson."¹

In 1837 the remains of this venerable Friary were in tolerable preservation, notwithstanding the fact that, from the year 1808, tons of stones had been carted away from the dismantled convent and out-offices. At this date (1837) the grand Observantine church survived, and is described as having "a lofty square tower on four pointed arches." From Lewis, we learn that "a great portion of the conventual buildings were removed in order to furnish a site for the new market." He also informs us that "a curious brooch of gold, enriched with emeralds and garnets, was found in clearing away the ruins." Some of the granite quoins were used in the re-erection of the tower of Ross-droit Protestant Church [built in 1795] in 1832. However, the grand tower of the ruinous Friary fell to pieces on October 23rd, 1839; but the antiquarian can feast his eyes on two of the arches, one of which can be seen in the

¹ The sole surviving pupil of Rev. Mr. Simpson is Mr. G. C. Roberts, J.P., agent to the Earl of Portsmouth.

flourishing brewery of Mr. George H. Lett, and the other in St. John's Mill. Strange to say, the evening on which the tower collapsed with a tremendous crash, was exceptionally calm, as Mr. John Cullin, J.P., informed me, who also remembers seeing the "Abbey" orchard, and getting apples there when a boy.

Not a vestige now remains of this once famous Friary ; and on the site of the church is the present Bank of Ireland. An ancient fifteenth century *Missal*, written by one of the Friars, is still in existence. The place-names, *The Abbey*, *Friary Hill*, and *Friary Place*, are memorials of this religious establishment.

ST. SENAN'S CHURCH (TEMPLESHANNON).

THE average denizen of Enniscorthy scarcely knows of this ancient church of St. Senan by its proper nomenclature, but if you ask for the "*old church*," you will soon be pointed out the veritable St. Senan's, the name of which survives in Templeshannon, *i.e.*, *Teampul Senain* = Church of St. Senan, not far from the railway station.

As mentioned in the early portion of this work, St. Senan founded this "*old church*," 510—512, and his feast is commemorated on March 8th. Doubtless, it was destroyed by the Danes, but was rebuilt in the Hiberno-Romanesque style before the Anglo-Norman invasion. I cannot do better than quote the learned O'Donovan's description of St. Senan's :—

"The nave is about thirty feet in length, by nineteen and a-half feet in breadth. The side walls, which appear to retain the original height, and extend the entire length of this portion of the church, are about eighteen feet high. Only the northern portion of the gable remains ; and, at the southern extremity of the part remaining, there is a

large stone, which seems to have been the lower stone of a doorway. The walls of the nave are about three feet thick, and they are covered with ivy.

"The choir was about twelve and a-half paces long, and it appears to have been of the same breadth with the nave; but, as its side walls are now level with the ground, it is impossible to measure the breadth with accuracy. The last gable is almost perfect, being slightly injured, however, at the top. On this gable there is a square window, formed of granite, on the outside, where it is about three feet high, by two and a-half feet—it widens considerably on the inside. This gable is built of small and very thin stones, and it is about two and a-half feet in thickness. The nave is built of large and small stones."

This description of the ruinous church was written by Doctor O'Donovan, in 1840; and is almost equally true at the present day, inasmuch as Time has dealt very tenderly with the twelfth century fane. Moreover, in the year 1814, a high wall was built round the time-honoured church and cemetery, as an inscribed slab over the gateway testifies. Canon O'Hanlon writes: "The middle gable rises a little above the side walls, the upper part being removed. The choir arch appears to have been pointed, and its gable was covered with ivy."

Adjoining the cemetery, in the garden of Mr. James Donohoe, is St. Senan's Well, which was formerly a much-resorted shrine, and famed for its curative properties. The only memory of this well in our day is in the manufacture of St. Senan's Mineral Waters.

In the Royal Visitation of the year 1615, St. Senan's Church is described as in the deanery of the Duffrey. It was then in tolerable preservation, and is said to have a nave and chancel, but was not used for divine service after the year 1603.

There are some interesting tombs in the ancient cemetery well worthy the attention of the antiquarian, although the two earliest I could decipher were only of the years 1705 and 1714. For many years it has ceased to be a burial place, but there are occasional interments. A few heroes of '98 sleep their last sleep in this moss-grown home of the dead, which can be visited by the tourist on application to

the caretaker. I append the wording of the oldest monument :—

“ Here lieth the body of Joanna,
wife to Robert Walker,
who departed this life
the 10th day of May,
Anno Domini
1705.

ENNISCORTHY CATHEDRAL.

UNTIL the close of the year 1806 the Catholics of Enniscorthy were forced to worship in a modest L-shaped chapel, at the end of Irish Street, but in 1807 Bishop Ryan projected the idea of a Cathedral, and, in the following year, with the permission of the Holy See, he transferred the episcopal chair of the diocese of Ferns to Enniscorthy.

The earliest baptismal and marriage registers date from May, 1794 ; and the earliest record of a curate to Father William Synnott is Father John Synnott, who was appointed in 1803. As previously mentioned, on the death of Father William Synnott, P.P., in 1805, the parish became mensal, with the Bishop as pastor, and Rev. Doctor Keating as curate.

In 1808 the “ old ” Cathedral was commenced on a most eligible and commanding site, which was given at a nominal rent by the Earl of Portsmouth, notwithstanding considerable opposition on the part of the Orange faction. It was, however, a small and unpretentious structure, but was then regarded as “ a very respectable fabric ” by a contemporary writer ; and it was opened for divine worship in 1809. The first ordination that took place in the Cathedral was that of James Doyle, O.S.A., afterwards the great J.K.L. (Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin), which ceremony was performed by Bishop Ryan, on October 1st (Rosary Sunday), 1809.

Doctor Ryan, who was a *persona grata* at Dublin Castle, died March 9th, 1819, and was buried in his Cathedral Church, where a white marble slab commemorates his episcopacy. It is thus inscribed :—

Illustriss. et Reverendiss.

Patricius Ryan, Eps. Fernensis, natus

A.D. 1768.

Expleto studiorum ecclesiasticorum curriculo
ad animarum curam vocatus, et ab Archiepo.

Dublinsi parochiæ Clontarf pastor
est institutus A.D. 1797.

Coadjutor Epi. Fern. creatus A.D. 1805,
ipso jam defuncto in ministerium Episcopale
pleno jure successit A.D. 1814.

Primus sedem Ep. in civitate Enniscorthiensi
collocavit, et disciplinæ Ecclesiasticæ
excolendæ atque saluti animarum
promovendæ per annos quatuordecim
sedulo intentus, Supremum diem
obiit vii. Nonas Martii, 1819.

R.I.P.

On March 21st, 1819, Doctor James Keating was consecrated in the Friary Chapel, Wexford, as successor to Bishop Ryan; and, on March 26th, he promoted Father Nicholas Codd to the pastorate of Monageer, whereupon Father George Whitty succeeded as administrator, with the Revv. Walter Rowe and Michael Mitton as curates.¹ His first ordination ceremony took place during the quarter tense of Pentecost, 1819, when Philip Devereux and Thomas Neville were raised to the priesthood. During the same year he ordained the Rev. John Kavanagh and the Rev. Timothy Farrell, on the second Sunday in October, and on Sunday within the octave of Christmas respectively.

Father James Roche came as curate in March, 1829, and Father James Sinnott in November, 1832. Bishop Keating made Camolin a mensal parish, and he reconstructed the

¹ Bishop Keating, in 1819, appointed Father James Dixon, who had been transported in '98, as Parish Priest of Crossabeg, where the much persecuted priest died on January 4th, 1840, aged 82 years.

parochial divisions of the diocese on May 9th, 1835. In March of the same year, Father Philip Mayler arrived as third curate of the Cathedral; and in October, 1836, Father Nicholas Codd joined the staff.

There was a meeting held at Enniscorthy on March 13th, 1838, presided over by Doctor Keating, "for the purpose of taking steps to improve the Cathedral, as the roof was in a ruinous condition." Subscriptions were handed in, but the good Bishop had long formulated a plan for a Cathedral worthy of the see of Ferns, and he determined at all costs to set about it. Having beheld with pardonable pride the foundation of the lovely collegiate church of St. Peter's, Wexford, on June 18th, 1838, being the first designed in Ireland by the eminent ecclesiologist, Welby Pugin, he resolved to build a noble gothic pile in Enniscorthy. Accordingly, Pugin was commissioned to draw out the plan; and in July, 1843, the foundation stone of the present Cathedral was laid.

Father William Murphy came as curate on February 5th, 1840, and on September 5th of the same year, Father James Roche, administrator, was promoted to be Parish Priest of Ferns, being replaced at Enniscorthy by Father Nicholas Codd, with Rev. James Parle as third curate. No further change took place till February 21st, 1846, when Father Nicholas Codd, administrator, was replaced by Father William Purcell, with Father Thomas Roche as third curate.

From the fact of the new Cathedral being built over the old one, the transepts, chancel, and bell-turret, standing as they do outside the site of the latter, were first undertaken, and were finished before the feast of SS. Peter and Paul (June 29th), 1846, when Mass was celebrated in the partly-finished structure for the first time. The portion of the nave running from the transepts to the entrance door was commenced in 1846, and finished in 1848. "It is needless to state," adds a contemporary writer, "that all the building so far completed owed its origin, its solidity, and its speediness of construction, to the unwearied energy and personal inspection of the good Bishop Keating."

To the antiquarian, it will be a real source of satisfac-

tion to learn that all the bluish-tinted stones—particularly noticeable in the western front—utilized in the building of the Cathedral, 1843—1847, were taken from the debris of the ruined Franciscan Friary Church, which were generously given to the Bishop by the Earl of Portsmouth.

Doctor Keating took ill in November, 1848, and he expired on Friday, September 7th, 1849, aged 65 years. Renehan thus writes of him: "In politics, he faithfully followed the guidance of O'Connell, differing from him only on the poor laws, and even then not openly. He was an earnest anti-vetoist, joined heartily in the struggles for Emancipation and Repeal of the Union, and against the tithes, the Bequests' Bill, mixed education, the 'godless' colleges, and deplored to the last the ill-advised secession of the Young Ireland Party. As a preacher, he was effective, sometimes reaching a high order of eloquence. His massive figure and noble bearing attracted attention even when his words failed to produce effect. The splendid monuments raised by him in the town of Enniscorthy are abiding proofs of his zeal." He was interred on Tuesday, September 11th, and on a mural slab, in proximity to the memorial window, is inscribed the following epitaph:—

"Illustriss. et Reverendiss. Jacobus Keating Epus.

Fernensis, e diocesi Fernensi oriundus, natus est

A.D. 1783.

In collegio Manutiano S. Patricii, studiis

ecclesiasticis summa cum laude expletis,

ordinem presbyteratus suscepit 1809.

In vinea Domini operarius fidelis et impiger,

Ecclesiæ Fernensi regendæ Epus. præficitur,

XII. Kalend. April, A.D. 1819.

Munus Episcopale per triginta annos, prudentia

animi, virtute et moderatione, necnon pietate

erga Deum et homines spectabilis exercuit.

Libertatem Ecclesiæ acerrime vindicavit, et demum

hac cathedrali summo cum studio divini

honoris labores inter plurimos et graves

temporum angustias extracta,

animam placide Deo reddidit

VII. Idus. Sept. A.D. 1849.

R.I.P."

INSCRIPTION UNDER MEMORIAL WINDOW OF STAINED
GLASS.



“In memoriam Reverendissimi D.D.
Jacobi Keating, Epi. Fernensis ; natus anno 1783,
Consecratus anno 1819 ; obiit anno 1849,
religionis et patriæ jurum propugnator strenuus et constans,
Ecclesiam hanc cathedralem a fundamentis extruxit ;
Ecclesiam vero Fernensem legibus, institutis, moribus,
composuit et ornavit.
R.I.P.”

In consequence of the awful depression resulting from the great famine, building operations had necessarily to be abandoned in 1848. Doctor Myles Murphy, Parish Priest of Wexford, and V.G. of Ferns (who had declined the see of Ossory in 1828), was consecrated in the Cathedral on March 10th, 1850, and, with commendable zeal, he commenced the grand central tower, which was completed in November of the same year. “The tower and spire, designed for the building by Mr. Pugin,” writes a contemporary, “which rise at the intersection of nave and transepts, rest on four grand piers, and are, we believe, the only specimens of this bold style of architecture in Ireland.”

Doctor Murphy purchased a magnificent bell, and also a fine organ,¹ built by White, of Dublin. In his modest residence, adjoining the Presentation Convent, he devoted much of his spare time to the revision of the excellent *Catechism of the Christian Doctrine*, which had been compiled by Doctor William Devereux, V.G., in 1645. He kept strictly aloof from politics, and attended the

¹ The old organ was built at the close of the year 1850, and for almost twelve months was voluntarily presided at by one of the Presentation Nuns. From 1851 to 1860 the duties of organist were carried out by the Misses Murdoch and Mr. Joseph Sullivan. In 1861 the first recognised salaried organist was appointed in the person of the late Signor Revelli, who fulfilled the position till 1876, when he was succeeded by Mr. P. Geraghty (1876—1893), after whom came Mr. Augustine FitzGerald (1893—1895).

synods of Thurles and Dublin, in the years 1850 and 1853 respectively.

Father Nicholas Walshe arrived as curate on September 14th, 1849, and remained eight years, after which he joined the Jesuits, ultimately becoming Provincial for Ireland. He is still a venerable member of the Jesuit order in Dublin. No further change is chronicled in the Cathedral staff till 1853, when Father William Murphy (afterwards Dean of Ferns) was appointed administrator; and on June 7th, 1856, Father Thomas Warren came as curate.

After the completion of the square central tower, funds again failed, and the work was suspended for some years. Still, the good bishop did not forget the interior adornment of his Cathedral, and on June 29th, 1855, the stations of the cross were erected. This was almost the last work undertaken by Doctor Murphy, whose health visibly declined from March, 1856; and he died on August 13th, 1857, being interred in a vault behind the high altar on the 18th. A splendid memorial stained-glass window was subsequently erected, and the following inscription appears on a brass-plate beneath it:—

“Of your charity pray for the soul of the
Right Rev. Doctor Milesius Murphy. He was
consecrated Bishop of Ferns on March 10th, 1850,
and died on August 13th, 1856, aged 69 years.
His remains were deposited in the Chancel near this window.
R.I.P.”

On March 22nd (Laetare Sunday), 1857, a great gathering of clergy and laity was present in the Cathedral to witness the consecration of Doctor Thomas Furlong, the ceremony being performed by Archbishop (subsequently Cardinal) Cullen, of Dublin, assisted by the Bishops of Kildare and Leighlin, and Ossory. In May of this year, the newly-consecrated prelate secured the services of Mr. J. J. MacCarthy, the late well-known ecclesiastical architect, who, following Pugin's plan, designed the chancel screen, altar, reredos, sanctuary, and internal decorations; and the work proceeded apace until 1860, when the Cathedral

was dedicated on June 29th, the preacher being the late Archbishop Ullathorne.

Father Michael Warren joined the Cathedral staff on October 2nd, 1857, in which year a "mission" by the Redemptorist Fathers—the first ever given in Enniscorthy—was given, and was productive of enormous good. Father Thomas Walsh came as curate on October 18th, 1860, owing to the appointment of Father William Murphy, administrator, as Parish Priest of Crossabeg, who was replaced at Enniscorthy by Father Thomas Roche.

Bishop Furlong went to Rome at the close of April, 1862; and, on May 21st, presented the Very Rev. James Roche, Parish Priest of Wexford, to Pope Pius IX. Father Thomas Warren died on the 8th of January, 1863; and Father John Hore, C.C., died on the 30th of September, 1864. In 1868 Father Thomas Roche, administrator, was promoted to the pastorate of Lady's Island, and was succeeded at Enniscorthy by the Rev. J. L. Furlong.

After almost ten years' suspension, a movement was inaugurated in the autumn of 1870 to complete the Cathedral; and, on New Year's Day, 1871, at a public meeting, a committee was formed for carrying out the completion of the spire—Mr. Ryan, of Waterford, being selected as builder, with Mr. John Costello, of Dublin, as foreman. The estimated cost was something over £2000. Here it is appropriate to give the dimensions of the Cathedral.

The length of the building is 175 feet, but it is remarkably narrow, as the width across nave and aisles is only fifty feet, whilst across the transepts it is seventy-eight feet. The height to the ridge of the roof is seventy-three feet. There is a magnificent western entrance, deeply recessed, leading to the nave, with a double set of elaborate mouldings, and above the grand entrance is an exquisite window, consisting of five main lights, the mullions developing into intricate tracery of circle and trefoil. There is also an entrance at the end of each transept, and the transept windows over these doorways is similar to that over the western entrance. All visitors are struck with the beauty of the chancel window above the high altar, which consists of seven main lights, with charming tracery;

and there are six windows in each aisle, with three in each of the chancel aisles. The clerestory windows are eighteen in number, on each side of the building, with trefoil tracery.

"The unusual narrowness of the building," says a recent authority, "will probably be lost sight of in the beauty of its arrangement. Inside, too, the spectator will scarcely be conscious that to this very narrowness is due the impression of majesty which, on the first view of the interior, excites such wonder and admiration. It was one of those strokes of genius that distinguished Pugin. With the same resources another architect would have produced a building stunted and inferior. The abridgment of his means seemed to suggest to Pugin how he might produce grandeur of effect. What he retained in the length he spared in the breadth. Viewed from inside the front entrance, the slenderness of the building gives an increased idea of height and distance.

"The aisles are connected with the nave by twelve high arches, supported on circular columns. The chancel aisles open into the chancel through six similar arches. The lofty arches supporting the central tower at the intersection of the arms of the cross relieve the monotony of the succession of aisle-to-nave arches. The arches are decorated in polychromy. All the windows but those in the clerestory are fitted with stained glass. That over the high altar, with figures of the Redeemer, His Virgin Mother, the Apostles, and Saints, was erected by public subscription. The other windows are gifts to the Cathedral, erected as memorials to deceased relatives of the donors. The tinted glasses subdue and mellow the light. The roof is open wood-work, and is richly decorated. The tiling is variegated, in squares."

In May, 1872, when the work of completion was fairly advanced, it was discovered that the supporting tower was thoroughly unsound—or, in other words, was "sagging"—and, accordingly, not only the well-nigh completed spire, but also the tower, had to be taken down. The work of demolition was accomplished on July 23rd, and the erection of the new tower commenced on September 10th. On the feast of St. Joseph (March 19th), 1873, the first stone of the spire was laid, and finally, on the 23rd of August of

the same year, Father Furlong placed the grand cross into position on the pinnacle of the spire—almost 230 feet high. The clock in the tower, having been reconstructed and fitted with four dials by Messrs. Booth, of Dublin, was set in motion on November 15th, 1873.

Bishop Furlong (who lived for two years in Enniscorthy) died at the episcopal residence, St. Peter's College, Wexford, on November 12th, 1875, aged 73 years, and was interred, on the 17th, in Enniscorthy Cathedral, the obsequies being presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Cullen. At the Month's Memory, there was a magnificent discourse preached by Bishop Conroy, of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, a famous pulpit orator. There is a fine stained-glass window to the memory of Doctor Furlong in the epistle transept, where also are brasses to commemorate the labours of Fathers Warren, Hore, Breen, Busher, and Kelly (died September 15th, 1872).

On May 7th, 1876, the Rev. Michael Warren, Superior of the House of Missions, was consecrated in the Cathedral as Bishop of Ferns. This estimable prelate, who resided in Enniscorthy, did much for the adornment of the Cathedral, and died April 22nd, 1884, having as successor the present revered bishop (Doctor James Brown), who was consecrated in the Cathedral on September 14th, 1884.

The energetic administrator, Father J. L. Furlong, was succeeded by an equally zealous clergyman, Father Denis O'Connor, who was promoted to the pastorate of Litter in July, 1889. A magnificent memorial window, costing 350 guineas, was erected in February, 1885, as a tribute of regard to the labours of Bishop Warren, by James and Catherine Malone. It is situated behind the Calvary. The Calvary itself is a perfect gem; and a brass on the adjoining wall informs us that it was the gift of Mrs. Cogley in 1887, who also presented "the grand pair of elevated lights" (candelabra) in the sanctuary. The candelabra before the altar of the Blessed Virgin are the gift of Miss Bridget Doyle, Ballinahallin, who likewise erected a beautiful stained-glass window in the epistle transept, 1889. In this transept is a really fine painting of the crucifixion, which cost over £120, subscribed for by the members of the Total Abstinence Society. The stations

of the cross and marble altar rails were presented by the male and female branches of the Holy Family Confraternity. Mr. and Mrs. Malone donated the pontifical throne in 1889. The altars were erected by public subscription, and are all in carrara marble, whilst the reredos is a splendid specimen of carving, and is decorated with open work over the niches.

During the rule of the present Bishop, the Cathedral has been completely furnished in every detail. Father William Fortune, who was administrator from 1889 to July, 1896, worked strenuously for the beautifying of God's temple; and, owing to his exertions, a fine three-manual organ, built by Messrs. Telford of Dublin, was formally opened in February, 1894. But he did not stop at this, and so, in 1896, a hydraulic motor (Melvin's patent) was fitted up by Telford, the whole costing close on £1000, all of which was subscribed for by the Catholics of Enniscorthy.

In July, 1896, Father Fortune was promoted to the pastorate of Piercestown, and was succeeded by Father Patrick O'Connor, who had long been senior curate. Whilst administrator, Father "Pat," as he was familiarly called, laboured earnestly for the good of the parish; and in May, 1897, he had the large bell fitted with the new rotatory action, and remounted. He also got a new supply of gas, and had eight magnificent gasaliers erected, thus lighting the Cathedral brilliantly.

In April, 1898, Father O'Connor was appointed Parish Priest of Davidstown, and was succeeded as administrator by Father John Dunne, who had been curate of the Cathedral since November, 1882. It is unnecessary to write of the labours of Father Dunne, which are too fresh in the memory to need narrating. However, he has undertaken a very desirable task in furnishing pitch-pine seats for the aisles—a long-felt want, indeed—at a probable cost of over £200. A new baptistery is also to be erected, towards which a sum of £300 was left as a bequest by the late Miss Maguire; and this will practically complete in every detail Pugin's fine Cathedral, which now only awaits consecration, as there is no debt on the building—the nominal rent asked for by the present Earl of Portsmouth having been generously remitted last January.

The present (September, 1898) staff of the Cathedral is as follows :—administrator, Rev. John Dunne ; curates (vacant), Rev. Robert FitzHenry, and Rev. Nicholas Mernagh ; organist and choirmaster, W. H. Grattan Flood ; sexton, James Leacy.

THE EPISCOPAL SUCCESSION IN THE DIOCESE OF FERNS.

(Compiled from the works of Colgan, Ware, Harris, Cotton, Brady, Lanigan, Lynch, Moran, Renehan, and various documents in the P.R.O. London and Dublin, and from the Vatican Archives.)

1	St. Aidan (Mo-Aedhog, or Mogue)	d.	Jan. 31st,	632
2	St. Mochua Luachra	d.	June 22nd,	653
3	St. Tuenoc or Tuathal MacFintan	d.		663
4	St. Coman or Common	d.		675
5	St. Maeldoghar	d.		677
6	St. Diorath	d.	July 27th,	692
7	St. Moling Luachra (St. Mullins) ¹	d.	May 13th,	697
8	St. Cillene or Killen	d.	March 3rd,	714
9	Aireachtagh MacCuana	d.		741
10	Breasil MacColgan	d.		748
11	Reoddaidh	d.		763
12	Dubhinracht MacFergus	d.		781
13	Cronan	d.		789
14	Finnachta	d.		799
15	Cillene	d.		815
16	Finncallagh	d.		860
17	Dermot	d.		869
18	Fearghal	d.		882
19	Lachtнан	d.		904

¹ His feast is June 17th.

20	Lynam	d.	938
21	Flathgus	d.	945
22	Finnachta MacLynam	d.	957
23	Cairbre MacLynam	d.	966
24	Conaing MacCahan	d.	977
25	Conn O'Lynam	d.	996
26	Conor O'Lynam	d.	1043
27	Dermot O'Rodachain	d.	1050
28	Murchadh O'Lynam	d.	1062
29	Ugaire O'Lynam	d.	1085
30	Cairbre O'Kearney	d.	1095
31	Ceallach O'Colman	d.	1117
32	Carthage O'Maelgabhra	d.	1119
33	Maeleoinn O'Donegan	d.	1125
34	Maelisa O'Cahan	d.	1135
35	Roderic (Rory) O'Treacy	d.	1145
36	Brigidian O'Cahan (d. 1172)	res.	1160
37	Joseph O'Hea	d.	1185
38	Albin O'Molloy	d.	1222
39	John St. John	d.	1243
40	Geoffrey St. John	d.	1258
41	Hugh de Lamport (Lambert), elected July 10th, 1258, d. May 23rd, 1282.		
42	Richard of Northampton, cons. early in 1283, d. Jan. 13th, 1304.		
43	Simon Hornsby (of Evesham) cons. June 22nd, 1304, d. Sept. 1st, 1304.		
44	Robert Walrand, cons. in 1305, d. Nov. 17th, 1311.		
45	Adam of Northampton, cons. Trinity Sunday, 1312, d. Oct. 29th, 1346.		
46	Hugh of Leixlip (de Saltu) cons. Passion Sunday, 1347, deprived in Aug., 1347.		
47	John Esmonde, irregularly cons. in 1347, trans. to Emly in January, 1351.		
48	Geoffrey Groffield, O.S.A., cons. in 1347, d. Oct. 22nd, 1348.		
49	William Charnels, O.P., cons. in 1350, d. July, 1362.		
50	Thomas Denn, cons. on Trinity Sunday, 1363, d. Aug. 27th, 1400.		
51	Patrick Barret, O.S.A., cons. Dec., 1400, d. Nov. 10th, 1415.		

- 52 Robert Whitty, "provided" Feb. 17th, 1418, d. Feb., 1458.
 - 53 John Purcell, cons. in 1459, d. 1479.
 - 54 Laurence Neville, "provided" Nov. 26th, 1479, d. 1503.
 - 55 Edmund Comerford, cons. in 1505, d. Easter Sunday, 1509.
 - 56 Nicholas Comyn, cons. January 20th, 1510, trans. to Waterford and Lismore, 1519.
 - 57 John Purcell, O.S.A., "provided" April 13th, 1519, d. July 20th, 1539.
 - 58 Alexander Devereux, O.Cist., schismatically cons. Dec. 14th, 1539, d. July, 1566. (Bishop Devereux was rehabilitated in 1554.)
 - 59 Bernard O'Donnell, "provided" March 30th, 1541, trans. to Elphin, June 3rd, 1541.
 - 60 Hubert Heffernan, O.Cist., trans. from Elphin, June 3rd, 1541, res. May 5th, 1542.
 - 61 Dermot FitzPatrick, "provided" May 5th, 1542 (never entered on possession).
 - 62 Peter Power, "provided" April 27th, 1582, d. Dec. 15th, 1588.
-

VICAR APOSTOLIC.

Daniel O'Druhan ("James Walshe"), app. in 1606, d. Sept. 12th, 1626.

- 63 John Roche, "provided" April 29th, 1624, d. April 9th, 1636.
-

VICAR CAPITULAR.

Doctor William Devereux, elected in 1636 (confirmed July 29th, 1640), d. 1647.

- 64 John Roche II., "provided" Feb. 6th, 1644 (never entered on possession).

- 65 Nicholas French, "provided" Sept. 15th, 1644, d. Aug. 23rd, 1678.
- 66 Luke Wadding (app. coadjutor May 12th, 1671), cons. in 1683, d. Jan., 1692.
- 67 Michael Rossiter (nom. in 1692, and preconized in 1695), cons. in 1697, d. Oct. 4th, 1709.
- 68 John Verdon (nom. in 1709), cons. in Sept., 1709, d. May, 1729.
- 69 Ambrose O'Callaghan, O.S.F., "provided" Sept. 26th, 1729, d. 1744.
- 70 Nicholas Sweetman, "provided" Jan. 25th, 1745, d. Oct. 19th, 1786. [Doctor John Stafford was coadjutor from 1773 to 1781.]
- 71 James Caulfield, cons. as coadjutor July 7th, 1782, d. Jan. 14th, 1814.
- 72 Patrick Ryan, cons. as coadjutor in Feb., 1805, d. March 9th, 1819.
- 73 James Keating, cons. as coadjutor on March 21st, 1819, died Sept. 7th, 1849.
- 74 Myles Murphy, cons. March 10th, 1850, d. Aug. 13th, 1856.
- 75 Thomas Furlong, cons. March 22nd, 1857, d. Nov. 12th, 1875.
- 76 Michael Warren, cons. May 7th, 1876, d. April 22nd, 1884.
- 77 James Browne, cons. Sept. 14th, 1884.

Quem Deus incolumem servet.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

THE old church of St. Mary's, as previously noted, was wrecked during the disturbances of 1798—but it was an unpretentious structure in the seventeenth century, and was not rebuilt till 1828. The Rev. Joshua Nunn was rector from 1778 to 1802, when he was succeeded by Rev.

Richard Radcliffe (1802—1827), after whom came Rev. J. W. Stokes, who was promoted to the Archdeaconry of Armagh in 1841.

Under the rule of the Very Rev. Dean Browne (1842—1864) much was done to complete and beautify the church; and, at the close of the year 1864, the present organ was erected as a memorial of his labours—replacing the amateur band which had previously supplied the accompaniments for the services from 1803 to 1831, when a harmonium was procured. This organ had been originally built for the Chapel Royal, Dublin, in 1815, by William Gray of London; and it was purchased as a bargain by the select vestry of Enniscorthy. In the present year (1898) it was thoroughly overhauled and remodelled by Messrs. Telford of Dublin, and a water-motor was added similar to the one in the Cathedral.

There are no features of particular interest in the architecture of the church, nor in the interior, as the Protestant diocese of Ferns is very “low church.” The communion plate only dates from 1815. However, in the churchyard, there are some ancient monuments, of which the oldest I could decipher was to the memory of George Carley, who died on the 14th of February, 1716, and of his son George—a *quo* Carley’s bridge. A rather quaint inscription reads as follows: “Here lieth ye body of William Parkear, who desast [deceased] June ye 6, 1742.”

Archdeacon Corvan was rector from 1864 to 1875, when he was replaced by the late Canon Murdoch, 1875—1883), after whom came the Rev. Doctor Barton. The present rector is the Rev. H. Cameron Lyster, B.D., and the curate is Rev. W. G. Squires. The church population is about 550.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

It was not until the year 1672 that a preacher was sent to Waterford, who visited Duncannon and Enniscorthy at

intervals; and from 1684 to 1689 the Rev. Alexander Coldin laboured in the district around Enniscorthy, whence he removed to Dunse, in Scotland. After the year 1691 the small Presbyterian congregation almost disappeared, and we find no trace of a minister until the year 1716. Unfortunately, too, the records of the Irish Presbyterian Church for the years 1693, 1695, and 1696, are lost, or at least, are not now extant. On July 15th, 1696, a union was formed between the Presbyterian and Independent congregations of Munster and Leinster, and soon after the Presbytery of Munster was formed. In 1698 there were seven "presbyteries" in Ireland, which increased to nine in 1702; and in 1708 Queen Anne granted £800 a year to the Presbyterian ministers of the South of Ireland, which sum was further increased by £400 a year, granted by King George in 1718. From 1714 to 1722 the Rev. Mr. Foulkes was minister of Enniscorthy, under the presbytery of the South of Ireland, which then numbered fourteen ministers under its jurisdiction.

Between the years 1730 and 1790 we find the Rev. Mr. Cowden and the Rev. Mr. Starke as ministers at Enniscorthy; but the arrival of other sectaries, notably the Wesleyans, diminished the congregation, whilst not a few joined the reformed Presbyterians. Presbyterian marriages were legalized in 1782 by the Irish Parliament; and on January 21st, 1792, the King granted the general synod an additional annual sum of £5000—at which date there were sixteen ministers belonging to the Presbytery of Munster, or the southern association.

From 1826 to 1833 the Rev. Francis William Geddes was minister of Enniscorthy, but after the year 1835 the congregation became extinct. However, between the years 1835 and 1858, several preachers visited the neighbourhood, and held meetings in the Market House. The two most prominent ministers who thus sought to revive Presbyterianism in Enniscorthy, were the Rev. Jonathan Simpson and the Rev. Robert Knox. Meantime, on July 10th, 1840, a union was effected between the secession synod and the synod of Ulster, and the Rev. Doctor Hanna was chosen moderator—the now united bodies being then constituted as the "General Assembly of the Presbyterian

Church in Ireland." Nevertheless, the Reformed Presbyterian Church kept aloof, but in 1854 the Presbytery of Munster joined the general assembly.

During the years 1855—1862 various Scotch and Ulster settlers came to the neighbourhood, and were ministered to by Rev. William Burns of Wexford, who had two preaching stations, one at Ballingale and the other at Clouroche. From 1862 to 1865 these two stations were centralized at Enniscorthy; and in 1865 Enniscorthy was formed into a congregation under the Dublin Presbytery.

The present church was built in 1866 by Mr. Patrick Kerr; and on March 26th, 1867, the Rev. William Arnold, M.A., was ordained at Enniscorthy as pastor of the little flock. In 1870 the general assembly accepted the commutation of £586,000, which the Government gave for the life interests of their ministers, and a sustentation fund was established. A splendid manse, with charming grounds, was built for Rev. Mr. Arnold, who still (September, 1898) ministers to those under his charge. The Presbyterian congregation of Enniscorthy at present is about twenty-five.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

It was only in 1747 that John Wesley began his preaching in Ireland, but his progress was very slow, and we find that his converts, according to an official account published in 1760, was reckoned in the latter year as 750. In his journal for 1769 Wesley, who, according to Lecky, was both superstitious and very credulous as regards witchcraft and demoniac interference, thus writes: "At Enniscorthy, a clergyman, having preached for some time against the Methodists, deferred the conclusion of his discourse to the following Sunday. *Next morning he was raging mad, imagined that devils were about him; and not long after, without showing the least sign of hope, he went to his account.*"

A small number of Wesleyans, or Methodists (vulgarly called "Swaddlers"), had a conventicle in Enniscorthy from 1768—1798; and in the year 1812 a house of meeting was rented in Tan-yard Lane, near the spot known as the Foundry, where an itinerant preacher ministered to about the dozen souls for some years. It was only in 1816 that the Wesleyan Conference determined to permit themselves to dispense the Lord's Supper, and up to that date laymen were preachers. This decision caused a split in the sect, and a large number seceded, calling themselves Primitive Methodists.

In 1835 the present chapel was erected, which was opened for divine service on September 2nd, 1836, by the Rev. J. B. Gillman, Dublin, and the Rev. Fossey Thackaberry, Drogheda. Enniscorthy is in the Waterford "circuit," or district, and has a membership of about forty. The present minister (resident) is the Rev. J. C. Robertson, B.A.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS).

QUAKERISM in Ireland dates from the year 1654, when William Edmundson formed the first Society of Friends at Lurgan, where in 1655 he was visited by Elizabeth Fletcher and Elizabeth Smith, who were committed to prison in Dublin for preaching the new doctrines. In the same year George Fox wrote an epistle to the Friends in Ireland, which he sent by William Edmundson; and, in 1659, John Burnyeat, an English "Friend," preached in New Ross, Enniscorthy, and Wexford, in which year a large number of this sect settled at Mountmellick. The arrival in Ireland of William Penn, in 1666, and his second appearance at Cork, on the 3rd of October, 1667, where he and eighteen others were arrested (but soon after released by order of the Earl of Orrery, Lord President of Munster), followed by a visit to Dublin of George Fox

himself, in 1669, gave an impetus to Quakerism. In 1673 we read that Thomas Holmes, in County Wexford, having obtained judgment against Captain Thornhill for £200, money due, "was subpœnaed into chancery by the said Thornhill, where he well knew Thomas could not answer upon oath, and so this friend lost his debt." Ten years later (1683) Robert Cuppage, a worthy Quaker of Lambstown, County Wexford, died.

In 1695 the Friends acquired a burial ground at Forest, near Killurin, County Wexford; and in 1698 William Penn visited Ireland, a description of which visit is summarized in a letter from him to the yearly meeting at London, dated Lambstown, County Wexford, June 2nd, 1698. In 1707 there was a "visitation" of the monthly meetings of the Leinster province, which was again performed in 1711. In 1718 died Samuel Randal, of Cork, who lived for many years at the Castle of the Deeps, near Enniscorthy; and in 1719 Quakers were exempted from taking oaths in courts of justice, and were permitted to hold services in their meeting houses, provided said chapels were duly registered.

From the year 1735 the Leinster summer quarterly meeting has been held at Enniscorthy. During the '98 "Rebellion," the Friends remained neutral, and were, in consequence, unmolested. The defection of the "White Quakers," in 1838, seriously imperilled the Friends, at which date there were about 150 members of the sect in Enniscorthy. The present congregation can only boast of about thirty souls.

HOUSE OF MISSIONS.

THE House of Missions owes its origin to Bishop Furlong, who had made a diocesan rule requiring that a "mission" should be given in each parish every five years; and, inasmuch as the fulfilling of this regulation would entail much difficulty, especially in the poorer districts, a society

of secular clergymen, somewhat on the lines laid down by St. Charles Borromeo, was established at Enniscorthy, in 1866, under the tutelage of the Blessed Sacrament. Owing to the generosity of Mr. Richard Devereux, a commodious house was built in Templeshannon; and the first Superior of the Borromeans, or Oblates (as they were then called), was Father Michael Warren. The name of this society, which is not a congregation nor yet an order, was afterwards changed to Missioners of the Blessed Sacrament (M.S.S.), and the members are secular priests of the diocese of Ferns, living in community.

In 1872 the staff of the House of Missions was as follows: Rev. M. Warren, Rev. A. Brownrigg, Rev. James Cullen, Rev. Michael Kelly, Rev. William Whitty, and Rev. James Busher. On the death of Bishop Furlong, in 1875, Father Michael Warren was appointed Bishop of Ferns, whereupon Father Abraham Brownrigg became Superior.

Father Patrick Ryan, M.S.S., died August 8th, 1876—the only deceased member of the community from 1868 to the present day. On December 14th, 1884, Father Brownrigg was consecrated Bishop of Ossory, previous to which Father Cullen had joined the Jesuits, and Father Kelly was appointed vice-Rector of the Irish College, Rome—now the Right Rev. Monsignor Kelly, Rector.

From 1884 to February, 1897, Father William Whitty was Superior, and at the latter date was promoted to the pastorate of Lady's Island, being subsequently made Canon. He was replaced by Father John Lennon. The present (September, 1898) community are: Revv. J. Lennon, J. Busher, Jas. Quigley, John Rossiter, Laurence Kinsella, R. J. FitzHenry and J. Hartley.

PRESENTATION CONVENT.

THE Presentation Convent (founded in 1826, with Mrs. Devereux as Superioress), adjoins the Presbytery; and about twenty-six nuns devote their lives to the education

of the poorer classes of children. The pretty conventual chapel was built in 1852. In no provincial town are there better equipped schools, including departments for cookery, needlework, kindergarten, &c., and the average attendance is over 250. Mrs. M. B. Hayden is the present Superioress.

MERCY CONVENT.

IN Templeshannon are the schools and convent of the Sisters of Mercy, founded in 1860. There are thirteen sisters who, in addition to visiting the sick and distressed, teach the children of the poor, over 200 in number. A very fine Industrial School is attached, where the Nuns instruct the pupils in sewing, knitting, linen work, hosiery, &c. Mrs. M. Evangelist Walsh is the Superioress.

LORETTO CONVENT.

ON October 15th, 1872, Bishop Furlong founded this convent, which was colonized from Rathfarnham, with Mrs. Barry as first Superioress. The chief object is to provide a good secondary education for young ladies. Previously, the house was the *locale* of St. Aidan's Academy, and it was converted to its present purpose, being dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels. The average attendance of pupils is twenty-five, some of whom are Protestants and Presbyterians, and the Superioress is Mrs. Odevaine. One of the Fathers of the Mission acts as Chaplain.

SISTERS OF ST. JOHN OF GOD.

AT the close of the year 1897, the Sisters of St. John of

God, who previously had charge of the Workhouse Infirmary, were given a foundation in the town, owing to a bequest of the late Mrs. Cogley. The house adjoins the Loretto Convent, and the Sisters act as nurses whenever required.

ST. AIDAN'S ACADEMY.

MR. ROBERT MONTGOMERY, whose name appears in the Enniscorthy *Directory* for 1824 as Master of the Academy, Mill Park, was succeeded as philomath by Mr. Thomas Dwyer, under whom the school closed in 1848. The need of a high-class academy for Catholic children was felt about the year 1852; and, accordingly, St. Aidan's was established in September, 1856, by Mr. John O'Meagher, an ex-Maynooth student, in the house now occupied by the Loretto Nuns in New Street. Mr. Richard Dunphy, the first professor, died on the 2nd February, 1861; and the founder died on the 7th of October of the same year.

Father Abraham Brownrigg, in January, 1862, became Director of the Academy, and brought it to a high state of perfection. He was succeeded by Mr. Roche (1865—1868), assisted by Mr. Leyden. In September, 1869, Mr. E. Gilgar re-opened St. Aidan's, after whom, in September, 1873, came Father John J. Carey, who removed the Academy to its present *locale* in Mill Park Road. The success of St. Aidan's, from 1873 to 1879, was not confined to the County Wexford; and Father Carey was ably assisted by Mr. Edward Bolger.

Owing to ill-health, Father Carey had to retire in 1880, whereupon Professor Bolger took over the Academy, and for some years had Mr. Kelly as assistant. Notwithstanding much opposition, St. Aidan's still flourishes under Mr. Bolger; and pupils receive a good solid grinding for the liberal professions, as also for the church, the civil service, and mercantile pursuits.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS.

FROM about the year 1818 the Catholic boys of Enniscorthy were afforded education at a Free School, which was attached to the old Cathedral. In 1830 we find Mr. O'Kelly as Head-master, who continued in office until 1857. The older generation still speak with a certain amount of pride of the Lancasterian Schools. However, in 1857, Bishop Furlong, almost immediately after his consecration, determined to introduce the Christian Brothers; and accordingly, on September 8th, 1857, the Rev. Brother Philip Slattery (who died at New Ross, December 21st, 1897, in a green old age) opened the Christian Schools in Templeshannon as first Superior. A more central site was secured in 1869, and the present schools, Island Road, were opened in 1870.

In 1896, through the efforts of the Rev. Brother Kelly, Superior for ten years, a very fine residence was built for the Brothers in Mill Park. The Christian Schools of Enniscorthy are up-to-date in every respect, and have been most successful at the Intermediate Examinations since 1894. In 1897, the Rev. Brother Leahy was appointed Superior; and the recently published results of the Intermediate Examinations (held in June, 1898) are the best yet, proving the present high state of efficiency.

THE MODEL SCHOOL.

THERE are thirty model schools in Ireland, which cost the nation £4 6s. a head, as against £2 3s. annually for ordinary National Schools. Enniscorthy "model" school was opened on August 4th, 1862, with Mr. Daniel O'Kelly as Head-master. It was visited by Archbishop Trench, of

Dublin, accompanied by the Dean of Ferns and Archdeacon Corvan, on October 19th, 1865. Since 1879 it has been practically a Protestant parochial school, and, as such, has never been attended by Catholic pupils. The present Head-master, Mr. Nevin, who was appointed in 1880, has brought the standard of this educational establishment to a very high pitch ; and the present average attendance of pupils—male and female—is about seventy.

BROWNSWOOD CASTLE.

THE ruined castle of Brownswood occupies a charming site on the banks of the Slaney, three miles from Enniscorthy, on the “new” road to Wexford. From the thirteenth to the seventeenth century it was held by the Brown family, and hence the adjoining wood (and manor) was called Brown’s Wood. The castle itself was often known as “Brown’s Castle.”

In March, 1650, Col. Cooke, the Puritan Governor of Wexford, captured Brownswood Castle, on which occasion, as we learn from official records, all the occupants and defenders were massacred. This is the same “gallant” officer who, in 1652, “shut up 300 men and many infants in a house in the County Wexford, and then, setting fire to the house, all were burned in the flames.”

One wing of the dismantled castle is still to be seen, and it rises to the height of seventy feet. It is a really picturesque ruin, and is a striking figure in the landscape when passing in the train from Enniscorthy to Wexford, just before Edermine is reached.

Early in the present century the Brownswood estate came into the hands of Col. Rochford, of Cloghgreennan, from whom it was purchased for £5500 by Captain Jeremiah Lonsdale Pouden, M.D., who married Lady Jane Stewart, daughter of the tenth Earl of Moray, and sister of the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth Earls of Moray, all of whom died without issue. The

child of this marriage was Eveleen Pounden, who was born May 3rd, 1841, and who, in 1868, married Mr. Smith. This lady, on the death of her uncle, became Baroness Gray in the peerage of Scotland; and, in order to completely ratify this title, she conclusively proved her claim before the House of Lords in July, 1896, which was duly acknowledged by the Earl of Moray.

The present mansion of Brownswood is a magnificent specimen of Elizabethan architecture, with a charming *parterre* laid out in faultless style; and the entrance lodge, which has recently been completed, is quite a gem.

Not far from the "back lodge" on the *old* Wexford road is the famous Cooraun (St. Kieran's) Well, where wonderful cures have been wrought. A little farther on is the ancient churchyard of Garrynisk.

EDERMINE.

THE earliest allusion we meet with regarding Edermine, which means "the middle plain," is at the close of the sixth century. In 598, Brandubh, King of Leinster, who was then on a visit at Skeirke (*Scadhairc*¹) near Rathgarogue, County Wexford, having heard of the invasion of Hugh Ainmire, King of Ireland, to enforce the Boromean tribute, travelled from the South of Hy Kinsellagh through Mointeach, Muinchin, Daimhne, *Edermine*, Ardchoillidh (Drumgoole) and Ardnebreasta, crossing the Slaney at Ferns, and journeyed to Baltinglass, where he was met by St. Aidan.

At the close of the seventeenth century we find Edermine as the property of the O'Toole family, who retained it till 1820. This fine estate is four miles from Enniscorthy, a mile beyond Brownswood Castle, and is picturesquely situated. William O'Toole died on the 6th of August,

¹ The place-name Skeirke has been hitherto unidentified, and I claim some little credit for having succeeded in locating it.

1811, and was succeeded in his inheritance by his son Laurence, who sold the property to Mr. James Power, who had founded the famous John's Lane Distillery, Dublin, in 1790.

Mr. James Power died in 1814; and his son John, of Roebuck House, County Dublin, was knighted by Earl Mulgrave in 1836. On March 30th, 1838, Sir John Power laid the foundation stone of the present mansion, known as Edermine House, and he was created a baronet in 1841. He died on the 26th of June, 1855, aged 84 years, and was succeeded by Sir James Power, M.P. (a great friend of Daniel O'Connell), who beautified the house and grounds.

Sir James Power, second baronet, died on the 30th of September, 1877, and was interred in Marlborough Street Pro-Cathedral, Dublin. The present owner is Sir John Talbot Power, who was one of the County M.P.'s from 1868 to 1874, and was High Sheriff of County Wexford for the year 1881.

Not far from Edermine is Coolanick (*Coill-Inick*), where an ancient flag-stone has been used from time immemorial, for resting coffins on, at all local funerals.

WILTON CASTLE.

THIS charming family mansion of the Alcocks is delightfully situated about three miles from Enniscorthy. The river Boro flows placidly below the house, and the grounds are well laid out. In a magazine article of 1850 the following description is given: "The lofty hill of Bree, rising in the form of an amphitheatre, and richly planted to its summit, affords shelter to this fine demesne from the south and east winds, and supplies the sportsman with an ample treasure in the superabundance of its game. This light and elegant building stands on the southern extremity of the rich lawn that lies before the grand entrance in the

north front. The house which was originally [1720] of a plain and ancient appearance, has undergone extensive alterations and improvements, and now presents not only a modern, but even a really rich, aspect.

“The eastern extremity is flanked by a handsome tower of light and elegant proportions, harmonizing with that part of the new building which connects it with the main body of the house, where another handsome tower displays itself. A beautiful terrace runs on the south side of the mansion, immediately above the river, while handsome bridges span the river at several points, rendered necessary by its serpentine windings. A rich and closely-shaded walk extends, for about a furlong on the west of the house, to a neat flower garden. The principal garden is situated on the other side of the road, opposite to the main entrance. There is a handsome lake to the north-west of the house.”

William Congreve Alcock died September 4th, 1813, and was succeeded by the late Col. Alcock. Wilton is at present the property of Captain Alcock, but most of the tenants have availed themselves of the Land Purchase Act. The family vault is in Clonmore.

Two miles further on are the ruins of the ancient monastery of Clonmore, *Dicholla Gairbh*, founded by St. Aidan, with a very moss-grown cemetery adjoining; and the old churchyard of Ballybrennan will also repay a visit. Nearer to Enniscorthy is the lovely residence known as Borodale, previously written of, and which is skirted by “Beatty’s Walk.”

BORMOUNT MANOR.

BORMOUNT is delightfully situated about three miles from Enniscorthy, not far from Kilcarbery. It was formerly the property of Christian Bor, Mayor of Wexford in 1650, and High Sheriff of County Wexford in 1666, who died April 18th, 1686. At the close of the last century the manor was acquired by Parsons Frayne, whose son and

successor, Walter Saunders Frayne, died February 17th, 1835. His widow married James Gethings, who built the present mansion in 1841, and died March 27th, 1851. After a brief occupancy by Mr. Vincent Bartolucci, an Italian gentleman, it was purchased by William Izon Bryan, J.P., who beautified the place considerably, and died January 21st, 1873. His son, Captain Loftus A. Bryan, is the present owner, best known for his interest in the co-operative movement.

To the antiquarian, the site of Kilcarbery Church, founded by St. Cairpre—corrupted to Carbery—will be an object of much interest. Not a vestige, alas! remains of this ruined fane, but the old churchyard is a silent witness of the pro-Norman Church. As previously stated, some of the stones belonging to old Kilcarbery were used in the building of the mill adjoining.

Bormount manor is on a well laid-out slope overlooking the Slaney, opposite the ruinous castle of Brownswood, and is a prominent feature in the landscape to the tourist who goes by rail from Enniscorthy to Edermine. The pedestrian can reach it by walking out to “St. John’s” and the Corrig.

MACMINE CASTLE.

THE name Macmine is an Anglicised corruption of *Magh-Moyne*, and the castle is situated about six miles from Enniscorthy, below Edermine, not far from the present railway station of Macmine Junction, where the traveller has to change trains for New Ross, Bagnalstown, &c.

At the close of the twelfth century we find Macmine in possession of the distinguished Anglo-Norman family of FitzHenry; and we read of the death of Sir John FitzHenry of *Magh-Moyne* on November 5th, 1307. Later still, we find John FitzHenry, of Macmine Castle, as Grand Prior of Kilmainham, who died on the 13th of February, 1421. From the fifteenth to the seventeenth

century the FitzHenrys, though somewhat impoverished, managed to keep their old inheritance; and, on September 21st, 1641, Nicholas, son and heir of Matthew FitzHenry, of Macmine, was sworn in a member of the Confederates—nay, more, he equipped a body of fifty picked soldiers to fight for faith and fatherland. This Nicholas FitzHenry distinguished himself during the pre-Cromwellian period, and his lands were forfeited in 1654.

In the early portion of the present century Macmine Castle was the property of Pierce Newton King, whose son, Richard Newton King, died on June 30th, 1850. In 1860, the property was acquired by John Richards, son of the Rev. George Richards, of Coolstufte; and it is now owned by Albert Garner Richards.

The late Mr. John Richards reconstructed the old castle in accordance with modern requirements; and, fronting the demesne, there is an island formed in the river Slaney. Quite a number of antiquities is to be met with in this vicinity.

FERNS CASTLE.

AFTER the death of King Dermot MacMurrough, in May, 1171, and of his son-in-law Strongbow, in 1177, Henry II., King of England, gave the manor and fortress of Ferns to William FitzAdelm de Burgo. In November, 1177, this FitzAdelm de Burgo, Viceroy of Ireland, as we read, “seized on the castle of Wicklow, which had been given to Lord Maurice FitzGerald [d. September 1st, 1177], and, as a set-off, gave the city of Ferns to William, Gerald, and Alexander, the three sons of the said Maurice. These Geraldines, “wishing to render their new establishment secure, *began to build a castle, which was immediately demolished by Walter Allemand, FitzAdelm’s nephew, and a man of obscure origin,*” then Governor of Wexford.

In 1192, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who married the grand-daughter of Dermot MacMurrough,

commenced the building of a noble castle at Ferns—the capital of his palatinate of Leinster. This earl, who was also Lord of Wexford, died under anathema, at Caversham, on May 16th, 1219, and was succeeded in his vast possessions by his son, William Marshall the younger, who married Eleanor, the daughter of King John. Having completed the castle of Ferns in 1224, being then Lord Justice of Ireland, he made restitution to the Church (for the alienation of two manors by his father) by giving over the castle, as a residence, for the Bishops of Ferns. This he did the more readily, as the last Irish occupant of the see—Albin O'Molloy—had died in 1222, and had been succeeded by John St. John, the Anglo-Norman treasurer of Ireland. Accordingly, in 1224, Bishop St. John entered on possession of Ferns Castle, which, from that date till 1364, remained the episcopal palace.

Bishop St. John, as spiritual and temporal ruler of Ferns, received an order from the king concerning fairs and markets, on July 7th, 1225. William Marshall, the younger, died suddenly on April 13th, 1231, and was buried in the choir of the Black Abbey, Kilkenny, leaving his palatinate of Leinster to his brother Richard. A year later (September 6th, 1232) the first Anglo-Norman Bishop of Ferns was superseded as treasurer of Ireland by Peter de Rievaulx, and had thus more time to devote to the spiritual affairs of his diocese.

Richard Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, was mortally wounded by some Anglo-Normans on the Curragh of Kildare, April 1st, 1234, and was interred in the Dominican Church, Kilkenny, being succeeded by his brother Gilbert, who died childless in 1241. Then came Earl Walter, who, after a brief enjoyment of the lordship of Leinster, died without issue in November, 1245.

Meantime, Bishop St. John held a synod in September, 1240, at Wexford, in the priory of St. Sepulchre (Selskar Abbey), the acts of which are still extant. This prelate, who was a benefactor to Duiske (Graiguenemanagh) Abbey, died in 1243, whereupon Geoffrey St. John, Vicar-General of Ferns, and Escheator of Ireland, was chosen to fill the vacancy, taking up his residence in Ferns Castle.

Anslem, the fifth and youngest brother of William

Marshall, the younger, went the way of all flesh in December, 1245, and thus ended the male line of the mighty Earl Marshal—a just punishment, as the annalists write, for many misdeeds, and a standing testimony to the efficacy of the excommunication hurled at the head of the great Earl of Pembroke by Bishop O'Molloy. Anyhow, in 1246, the palatinate of Leinster was partitioned by the Crown among the five sisters of Earl Anslem; and Ferns—then valued at £91 15s. per annum—fell to the lot of Joan, daughter of Maud Marshall (who had married Warren de Monte Caniso, better known as William, sixth Earl of Warren and Surrey), and wife of William de Valence, who, in her right, became Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Wexford. This transfer was effected in 1252.

In 1256 Bishop St. John petitioned Pope Alexander IV. against the heavy expenses incurred by the large number of attendants whom Fulk, Archbishop of Dublin, brought with him in his visitations to Ferns, which was favourably heard by the Sovereign Pontiff, who gave him license “not to receive the Archbishop with any greater numbers in his retinue than what were allowed by the canons.” This worthy prelate died in 1258, and had as successor Hugh Lambert, treasurer of Ferns, who received temporalities on July 10th, 1258.

Bishop Lambert died at Ferns Castle, on May 23rd, 1282, whereupon the Chapter elected Richard of Northampton, Canon of Killaloe, who got restitution of temporalities on October 13th of the same year, and was duly consecrated in July, 1283, taking up his residence in Ferns Castle. From 1280 to 1300 there was great trouble in County Wexford, as much from the internecine feuds of the Anglo-Normans themselves as from the raids of the Irish. From Dowling we learn that, in 1301, the people of the south of Leinster devastated the country north of Ferns, and took the castle of Arklow.

On the death of the Bishop of Ferns, on January 13th, 1304 (who was buried in his Cathedral), Simon of Evesham was duly consecrated his successor on June 22nd, but died on September 1st of the same year. Then came Robert Walrand (Vicar-General of Dublin), during whose residence in Ferns Castle many a stout conflict was waged in the

vicinity. He died on November 17th, 1311, and was buried in his Cathedral, after whom Adam of Northampton was consecrated on Trinity Sunday, 1312.

As stated in the historical portion of this work, the Bishop of Ferns, albeit an Englishman, was intensely Irish in his sympathies, so much so that he sided with the Bruces, and was arraigned for high treason in 1317, but in 1318 he was pardoned. However, the Crown considered that Ferns Castle was too important a stronghold for an episcopal residence, and so in 1335 it was made an appanage of royalty, to be held by constables.

In August, 1331, the O'Tooles burned the city of Ferns and pillaged the castle—which they took possession of—but in the following year it was recovered by the Crown. However, in 1336, as we learn from the *Annals of Ross*, Lord Matthew FitzHenry and 200 of his men were slain by MacMurrough, King of Leinster. Lord Gerald Rochford (son of Sir William Rochford, of Kill) was constable of Ferns Castle from 1335 to 1345, and was summoned as a baron to attend the Parliament of 1339.

After a long and stormy episcopate of thirty-four years, Adam of Northampton died on October 29th, 1346, being succeeded by Hugh of Leixlip, who was consecrated on Passion Sunday, 1347, but was deprived by Pope Clement VI. in August of the same year, whereupon the Chapter elected John Esmonde, Archdeacon of Ferns, who was duly consecrated, and entered on possession of Ferns Castle, which he held till September, 1351, as previously mentioned.

Bishop Charnels, O.P., lived in Ferns Castle from 1351 till his death in July, 1362, as did also his successor (Bishop Denn) 1363—1400, who was the last prelate to reside in the castle. From the year 1402 till his death, January 12th, 1418, Art MacMurrough, King of Leinster, held Ferns Castle, the old inheritance of the MacMurroughs; and his son Gerald lived there from 1418 to 1431, succeeded by his brother, Donald *Reagh*. In fact, we may briefly say that the MacMurroughs held Ferns Castle from 1402 to 1530, when it was captured by Lord-Deputy Gray.

In 1536, Cahir MacInnycross Kavanagh was appointed by the Crown as constable of Ferns Castle, but in 1538

was superseded by Sir Richard Butler (subsequently Viscount Mountgarret), who held the post from 1538 to 1558. Nicholas Heron was constable from 1558 to 1568, followed by Thomas Stukeley and Sir Thomas Heron. Sir Thomas Masterson's tenure of office was from 1576 to 1590, when he was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Masterson (1590—1627), during whose constablenesship the castle was held in trust for the Crown by Sir Henry Wallop, junior.

The Mastersons forfeited the Ferns estate in 1642; and Ferns Castle was at the same time much injured by Sir Charles Coote, who, "finding it impossible to hold out against the confederates, dismantled the outworks, and blew up a portion of the castle." On Friday, September 28th, 1649, this fine castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell, or rather to Colonel Reynolds, "the garrison," as we learn from Whitelock, "having left their arms, ammunition, and provisions behind them." This authentic statement disposes of the fiction long prevalent that Cromwell battered the castle.

By patent, dated May 20th, 1669, Ferns Castle, with the adjoining lands, was granted by Charles II. to Arthur Parsons. It then lapsed to Alderman Thomas Kieran (sheriff of the City of Dublin in 1687), who made it over to his brother-in-law, Rickard Donovan, of Clonmore, County Wexford, on January 20th, 1694. This Rickard Donovan made his will on June 2nd, 1707, leaving the Ferns and Ballymore property to his second son Murtoagh, who died intestate in 1712, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard Donovan, of Ballymore.

Captain Richard Donovan, of Ferns Castle and Ballymore, died on the 15th of July, 1768, whereupon the estates devolved on his only son, Counsellor Edward Donovan, whose death is chronicled on March 25th, 1773, after whom came Richard Donovan, who died on January 9th, 1816. This gentleman converted the beautiful stone groined chapel of the castle into an Orange Lodge, where, if tradition be relied on, the most fearful orgies were carried on.¹ He was succeeded by his eldest son Richard,

¹ When W. F. Wakeman visited Ferns Castle in 1864 he says

who was high sheriff of County Wexford for the year 1819, and he in turn was succeeded by his eldest son Richard, who was high sheriff for the year 1859. Thus the castle has been for over 200 years the property of the Donovan family.

Ferns Castle was in a fine state of preservation till the year 1860, when it began to give evidences of decay. However, during a storm on the night of January 29th, 1865, portion of this splendid specimen of Anglo-Norman architecture fell; and, a few years later, the vandalism of man almost destroyed it. Still, the ruinous fort, with its chapel, exquisitely stone groined in the roof, is well worthy of a visit.

St. Aidan's Cathedral, now the Protestant parochial church, deserves a passing call, if only to see the statue of St. Aidan (Mogue); as does also the ruined Augustinian monastery. St. Mogue's Well, and St. Peter's Hiberno-Romanesque Church, are well worthy the attention of the antiquary. But, above all, an exploration of the Cathedral cemetery—the largest in the County Wexford—will repay some hours' search; and the historian can gaze on the broken tomb of King Dermot MacMurrough, who invited over King Henry II. Built into a wall of the roadway are some excellent examples of inscribed stone crosses, dating from the tenth century.

CASTLEBORO.

ABOUT seven miles distant from Enniscorthy is the magnificent seat of the Carew family, formerly known as Ballyboro, but which was named Castleboro by the Right Hon. Robert Shapland Carew, in 1770. This wealthy commoner openly insulted Lord Castlereagh, in 1799, for

that, "upon the spot, beneath the eastern window [of this chapel], where, of old, the altar was placed, stood an equestrian figure of King William III."

offering him a bribe in reference to the Act of Union ; and he died full of years, on March 27th, 1829, aged 77. His son and namesake succeeded to the vast property of Castleboro ; and, in 1816, he married Jane, daughter of Andrew Cliffe, of Bellevue, County Wexford. In 1834, Mr. Carew was raised to the peerage ; and, in 1840, the old mansion house was burned, except the west wing. Almost immediately Lord Carew set about building the present palatial seat, which has a splendid granite lodge, at the entrance of the demesne. The demesne consists of 1000 acres, charmingly laid out ; and the river Boro is spanned by several bridges.

Lord Carew died June 2nd, 1856, and, marvellous to relate, his widow, Lady Jane, is still (September, 1898) living, in her hundredth year. The second Lord Carew died on the 8th of September, 1881, and was succeeded by the present Baron Carew. Within the past fifteen years Castleboro has been visited by many distinguished personages, including the late Duke of Clarence and the Duke of York in 1892, the Prince of Naples in 1896, the Lord Chancellor of England and Lady Halsbury, 1898, &c.

The ancient castle of Ballyboro stands at a short distance on the south-east of the present mansion, on the opposite side of the river, and, being richly mantled with ivy, lends an air of antiquity to the surroundings. On the demesne are the Protestant church and school-house of Killegny, whilst the Catholic churches of the district are at Cloughbawn and Courtnacuddy. Not far off are the seats of Woodbrook, Coolbawn, and Ballyhyland ; and good views can be had of the neighbouring mountains of Blackstairs, Mount Leinster, and the White Mountains.

Through the liberality of the present Lord Carew, visitors are allowed to stroll through the grounds of Castleboro—a privilege largely availed of in the summer months.

ANTIQUITIES, HOLY WELLS, &c.

NUMEROUS raths, duns, cromlechs, moats, &c., are to be met with in the vicinity of Enniscorthy, well worthy the examination of the archæologist. The old churchyards of Kilmollock, Castle Ellis, Garrynisk, St. John's, St. Senan's, Clonmore, Ballybrennan, Killily, &c., attest the existence of ruined churches; whilst there are several "holy wells" around. Cooraun (St. Keiran's) Well is still occasionally visited for cures. St. Mary's Well adjoins Kilmollock; and about a quarter of a mile lower down is another blessed well dedicated to St. Cillene, or Killen, called *Toberkillen*. At Ballynaslaney are the ruins of St. David's Church; and St. David's Well is a little below Oylegate.

Not a trace is now left of the ancient church of Ballynaslaney; but a splendid Hiberno-Romanesque doorway, with its stone joints and rounded arch, is at Saunderscourt, having been utilized to form the entrance to the now ruined fane of Kilpatrick. Ballyhuskard Church has also disappeared, but the churchyard is still *en evidence*, near the Mye Cross Roads, and St. Peter's Well adjoins it. There are still some slight remains of Kilmollock Church; and portion of the foundation can be fairly well traced out. In addition, there yet remains "part of the northern side wall, which is about a foot or more above the surrounding surface, and out of which grows a large ash tree and a couple of smaller ones of the same kind." At a short distance, west of the ruined church, is the family vault of the Hays of Ballinkeele, and on the south is the Peare vault.

Kilcarbery Church has entirely disappeared within the present century, but the stone arch and joints of the church door are utilized in a doorway of the present Kilcarbery Mills, founded in 1780, and enlarged in 1826, and again in 1855.

The "Still," about two miles from Enniscorthy, may be regarded as of antiquarian interest, as it was formerly an Iron Forge, then a Distillery (one of the five "Stills"

worked by the Jameson family in the early part of the present century), and subsequently a Flour Mill. At Killan, there is a holy well dedicated to S. Ann. The ruined castles of Ballycarney, Clohamon, and Ryland deserve notice. There is a well dedicated to St. Cuan *Oge*, or Cuan the Leper, at Ballybrennan; whilst St. John's Well is at Castle Ellis, and St. Bridget's Well at Castle Talbot.

The Wexford Brooch, the Gorey Torque, and the Enniscorthy Brooch are objects of much interest, particularly the "Enniscorthy Brooch," which is now in the gold room of the British Museum.¹ I am indebted to Sir Thomas H. Grattan Esmonde, Bart., M.P., for the following condensed account of this exquisite work of art:—

"The Enniscorthy Brooch is fourteenth century work—and is of gold, set with four emeralds and two garnets. There is an inscription in Gothic character round the brooch: ✠ AMES AMIE AVES M PARCES PRESET. It was acquired in the year 1849 by the British Museum."

It was found, as previously stated, about the year 1832, among the *debris* of the dismantled Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, and fell into the hands of a London dealer, who sold it in 1849 to the British Museum. Mr. C. H. Read, the curator, courteously writes as follows: "It may interest you to know that this type of brooch is similar to what is believed to be referred to by Chaucer, with the motto, *Amor vincit omnia*, and that it is a characteristic example of the English work of the period." This reference is to Chaucer's Prioress, who had "a broche of golde fulle shene."

At Ferns, the broken tomb of Dermot MacMurrough, the Celtic crosses, the statue of St. Mogue, St. Mogue's Well, and St. Peter's Hiberno-Romanesque Church are all worthy the attention of the antiquarian.

¹ The Gorey Torque is now in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, but the Wexford Brooch is in the British Museum, along with the Enniscorthy Brooch.

